

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



29 DECEMBER 2024  
The First Sunday of Christmas  
*Lessons and Carols*  
10:30 am

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*Academy Administrator*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

## WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

TOGETHER WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

- + Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.
- + If you have a need to **children**'s bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.
  - Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.
- + An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.
- + You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.
- + We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

29 DECEMBER 2024  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
Lessons and Carols *with Holy Communion* • 10:30

ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

# Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

ACS 909



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred.  
sweet new - born babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed:  
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me;  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me;  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me;



but there is room and wel - come there for me.  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me.  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008  
Music: MANGER SONG, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
Text © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. All rights reserved.  
Music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

ELW 289

# Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Detailed description: This block contains three systems of musical notation for a vocal part. Each system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and features a melodic line with eighth notes and a piano accompaniment of chords. The lyrics 'Glo - ri - a' are written below the vocal line. The second system continues the melody with a rest in the vocal line, followed by 'in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -'. The third system concludes with '- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' and ends with a double bar line.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

ELW 290

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Detailed description: This block contains three systems of musical notation for a vocal part. Each system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and features a melodic line with eighth notes and a piano accompaniment of chords. The lyrics 'Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;' are written below the vocal line. The second system continues the melody with a rest in the vocal line, followed by 'go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!'. The third system contains three numbered verses of lyrics: '1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,', '2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth', and '3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and some moving lines.

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

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

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God-with-us,

**C** we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,  
expecting good news in prettier packaging.  
Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways.  
Grant us the grace to begin again.  
Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

**P** Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C** Amen.



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

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

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

### ☐ Dear People of God:

in this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight  
 to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem,  
 and to see the Holy Child come among us.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the stories of the angels  
 as they announced holy children throughout the history of your people:  
 signs of your gracious answer to prayer and compassion and lovingkindness for humanity.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world;  
 for peace and justice on earth,  
 for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died,  
 for the city and land of his birth which still knows occupation and discord,  
 and for the Church here as we strive to share the message of your messengers.

And because he particularly loves them,  
 let us remember in Christ's name  
 the poor and the helpless,  
 the cold, the hungry and the oppressed,  
 the sick and those who mourn,  
 the lonely and unloved,  
 the aged and little children,  
 as well as those who do not know the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother,  
and that whole multitude which no one can number,  
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,  
and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, for whatever else you would have us ask,  
we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

☐ The Almighty God bless us with his grace;  
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;  
and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

☑ Amen.

**WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”**

*Please be seated. You may remain seated throughout the lessons and carols except where indicated.*

**LESSON: The Annunciation to Hagar**

**Genesis 16:7-13**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup>And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am running away from my mistress Sarai.” <sup>9</sup>The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her.”

<sup>10</sup>The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.” <sup>11</sup>And the angel of the Lord said to her,

“Now you have conceived and shall bear a son;  
you shall call him Ishmael,  
for the Lord has given heed to your affliction.

<sup>12</sup> He shall be a wild ass of a man,  
with his hand against everyone,  
and everyone’s hand against him,  
and he shall live at odds with all his kin.”

<sup>13</sup>So she named the Lord who spoke to her, “You are El-roi,” for she said, “Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?”

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!





1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -  
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and  
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the  
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we  
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and  
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to  
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,  
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O  
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank  
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your  
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and  
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!  
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.  
 on us all have mer - cy.  
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - - - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485-1550; tr. composite  
 Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius  
 Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2-4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## PRAYER

☐ El-roi, God-Who-Sees, you choose the least likely ways to work in the world. Allow us to call on you by name and receive the comfort of your presence in our lives. Make us inheritors of your promises to our ancestors and one with all the children of earth. We ask this through the Word Made Flesh.

☑ Amen.

## LESSON: The Annunciation to Sarai

Genesis 17:15-22

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” <sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live in your sight!” <sup>19</sup>God said, “No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>2</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But my covenant I will establish

with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year.”<sup>22</sup> And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

## CAROL

*To Abraham and Sarah*

To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:  
'Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.  
You need not fear the journey for I have pledged my word:  
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,  
dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace.  
and in their heart was written by God this saving word:  
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid,  
can journey to the future secure and unafraid!  
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word:  
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

## PRAYER

☐ God of the Covenant, your faithfulness is from everlasting and your grace endures from age to age. Cover us in the Covenant you swore to Sarah and Abraham. Open our hearts to believe your promises. We ask this through the Word Made Flesh.

☑ Amen.

## LESSON: The Annunciation to a Nazirite Woman

**Judges 13:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. <sup>3</sup> And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. <sup>4</sup> Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink or to eat anything unclean, <sup>5</sup> for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” <sup>6</sup> Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name, <sup>7</sup> but he said to me, ‘You shall conceive and bear a son. So then, drink no wine or strong drink and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.’ ”

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

## CAROL

ELW 277

### Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
 Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## PRAYER

☐ God who gives Samson strength, claim us for your own. Give us strength of body but most especially of will to stand against the powers of this world to proclaim your goodness and love. Hallow our living by your own Word Made Flesh.

☑ Amen.

## LESSON: The Annunciation to Hannah

I Samuel 1:19-28

<sup>19</sup> They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup> In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.” <sup>21</sup> The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. <sup>22</sup> But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and remain there forever; I will offer him as a Nazirite for all time.” <sup>23</sup> Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish your word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. <sup>24</sup> When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and the child was young. <sup>25</sup> Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the child to Eli. <sup>26</sup> And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence praying to the Lord. <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.” And they worshiped the Lord there.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

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

## PRAYER

☐ God Who Hears the heart, hear our prayers also. Lift the dejected and despised, welcome the stranger and outcast, center the marginalized and ostracized, and extend our community to the forlorn and forgotten. May we be dedicated not just to the work of worship but of justice, peace, and equity in the world. We ask this through the Word Made Flesh.

☑ Amen.

*You may be seated.*

**LESSON: The Annunciation to Elizabeth**

**Luke 1:5-20**

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. <sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, <sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. <sup>10</sup> Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup> Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." <sup>19</sup> The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!

**CAROL**

**ELW 249**

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## PRAYER

☐ God of miracles, faith is the gift your Spirit imparts to each of us. Without you we cannot hope to believe. Yet time again you astound us and we are speechless before you. Draw us to belief in the ways you dwell in the world, especially in your Word Made Flesh.

☑ Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## LESSON: The Annunciation to Mary

**Luke 1:26-37**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

☐ The Word is made flesh.

☑ Thanks be to God!



## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## PRAYER

☐ God of the Generations, you chose Mary to be your mother and by doing so enter into our human story. Guide us by her example in saying ‘yes’ to discipleship. Help us, like her, to bear you into the world. We ask this through the child of your Theotokos—God bearer—the Word Made Flesh.

☑ Amen.

## THE PEACE

☐ The peace of the Christ Child be with you. ☑ And also with you.  
*We greet one another with a sign of peace.*

You may be seated.

**MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”**



**THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**

An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

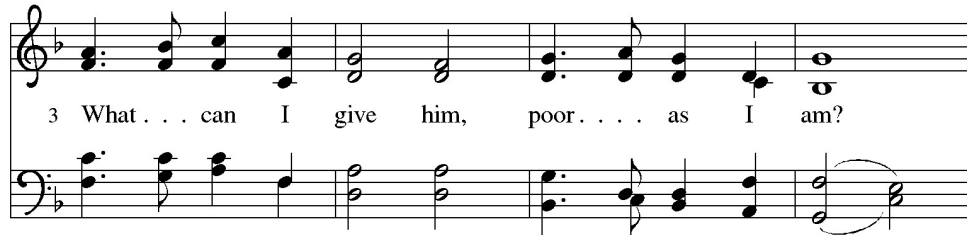
**SPECIAL MUSIC – “Voluntary”**

Please stand as you are able.

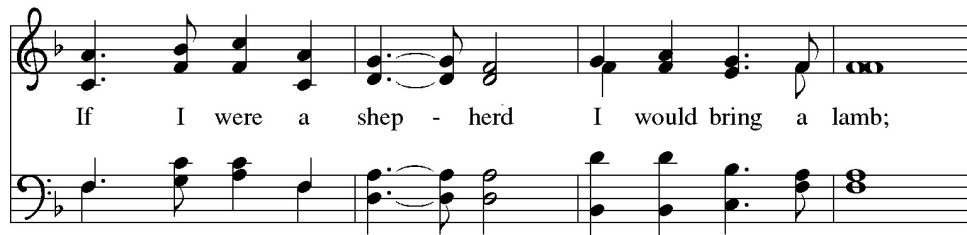
**OFFERTORY**

**In the Bleak Midwinter**


**ELW 294**



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

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

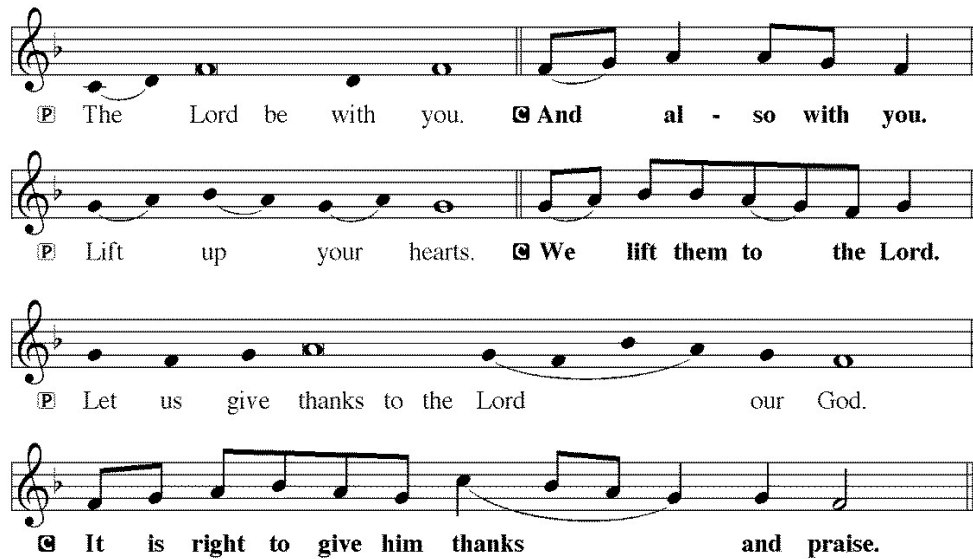


## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Sing ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might, —

Heav'n and earth your glo - ry show, Ho - san - na in the high - est,

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name\_ of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the heights! — Ho - san - na in the heights!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

*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.*

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

☑ Amen.

- ☐ Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

*The congregation is seated.*

## COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!  
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.*

*Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.*

*White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.*

*Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.*

*As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.*

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,  
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

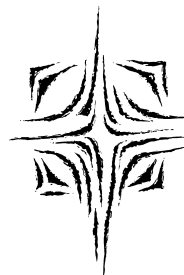
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876  
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900



## Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
 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  
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
 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  
 birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



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

*You may remain seated until after the announcements.*

**BLESSING**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
 keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A** Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**C** Amen.

*SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please stand as you are able.

## BLESSING

**P** ...now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING CAROL

### Jesus, the Light of the World

ACS 914

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.

Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain  
Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

**A** Glory to God in the highest!

**C** And peace to God's people on earth!

**A** Go in peace. Tell the good news!

**C** Thanks be to God.

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Scripture quotations taken from A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church (Years A, B, C, and W)  
by The Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney. Church Publishing. 2020-2024.*

— **SERVING TODAY** —

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer  
*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Pat Bellingham  
*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Stan Rose  
*LECTORS* – Christy Adams, Diane Banks, Rosanne Braine,  
 Kate Martin, C. Noelle Partusch, Lee Swenson  
*USHERS* – Diana Alvaro, Diane & Bob Banks, Cathy Beck  
*VIDEO STREAMING* – Gina Snider  
*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara’s mother, Vivian Gingrich, and her grandmother, Mae Alioth, (as they both passed away on December 29) by Barbara and Carl Moore.

**Worship Matters!**

**What are we reading?!** The tradition of Lessons and Carols is old but not ancient. The first example we have of a service of readings interspersed with singing and prayer is the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* from Kings College. And while those lessons are particularly static as far as what is read from year to year, the tradition of such interspersion for the purpose of worship is adaptable. This year, we hear stories of the annunciations from throughout scripture. This time of year we are used to The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary, but Mary was not the first person in scripture to receive a divine messenger with news of a miracle child. Indeed, Jesus enters the human story in a long line of miracle children who exemplified the work of God in the world—not just in the lives of their parents, but in the lives of the very people of God.

Hagar receives a visitor who announces she will bear a son to her slave master, Abraham. Ishmael receives the same covenant promise Isaac will receive of being the progenitor of many nations and generations. Indeed, our Muslim siblings claim him as their ancestor.

Sarai (later to be Sarah under the Covenant) receives a visitor to announce the birth of Isaac even though she is 99 years old and far past even hoping for a child. Nevertheless, it is through him that Christians and our Jewish siblings claim the covenant promises.

The Nazirite woman may be a less familiar story, but her son, Samson, will be a great Judge among the people and with both strength of will and body will stand up for the people of God against the Philistines.

Hannah has a story like so many women in the Bible. She is Elkanah’s second wife and her sister wife has born many children but Hannah has none. She prays fervently every time they come to the Temple for a son and promises to dedicate him (should God answer her prayer) to the work of the Temple. Samuel will be the first and great prophet who anoints kings like Saul and David. Upon his birth, Mother Hannah sings a hymn that clearly inspired Mary in her Magnificat.

The Annunciation to Elizabeth is, well, a little less to Elizabeth than it is to Zechariah her husband. But nevertheless we hear from an angel of a miracle child—Jesus’ cousin, John, no less—who will be born to another couple who had all but given up hope in their old age.

Finally The Annunciation. The angel Gabriel. A young unwed (but betrothed) girl in a backwater town. A miracle. The Miracle of all miracles! Hail, Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with you! God has chosen you to be the very Godbearer!

**Today’s Events**

**A fellowship time of Prosecco and Panettone** will be offered in the parlor following this morning’s service. Thank you to Pastor Jay and Chaz Mitchell for this Christmas gathering.

**The Church Office** will be on limited hours this week as our staff celebrates with their families. Please be patient with all correspondence and we will get back to you as soon as we can. The office is open on Thursday, January 2 with normal hours.

**Offering envelopes** for 2025 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

**Desk calendars** for 2025, compliments of the Burton Quinn-Scott Funeral Home, are located at the welcome tables. Please pick up as many as you need for the coming year.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

### **Worship**

**On Sunday, January 5** we will celebrate Epiphany. Please bring your magi from your home nativity scene to our worship service that Sunday.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025 following the 10:30am service. The 8:15am service will not be held. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation are appreciated to the church office by Sunday, January 12, 2025. The Annual Report will be emailed prior to January 26, and copies will be available to the congregation.

### **Outreach**

**The Mitten Tree**, located in the parlor hall, will remain up through January 5 so help us add some more decorations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. All items will be donated to the Bethany Outreach Center and distributed to those in need during the winter season. Blankets are also appreciated and can be placed under the tree. Thank you.

### **2025 is Almost Here**

**“De-decking”** our church will take place following services on Sunday, January 5. Please set aside some time after service to help remove ornaments from our trees and begin the new year. Thank you.

### **Faith Formation**

**Prayers Arise**, a Service of Evening Prayer in the spirit of Holden Village, will be offered each Wednesday in January at 6:00pm. We will gather on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for this half hour Vespers Service; January 8, 15, 22 and 29.

**Brown Bag Bible** gathers each Wednesday in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic for January–February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God’s people. We will meet again beginning January 8, 2025.

**Book Group**, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, will meet the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on January 13 we will begin the book *The Amen Effect, Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts* and World by Sharon Brous. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

**B.A.D. (Bible After Dark)** will not meet in January. Our gatherings will begin on February 5 at Calamari’s at 6:30pm and continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book ***Context*** by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat.

### **Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will begin our 2025 gatherings on January 14 and 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** Valentine Luncheon at the Ambassador Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, will be held Friday, February 14, 2025 from 12:00-12:30pm. This event is attended by so many that to ensure your reservation we ask that you contact Jan MacInnes or Norma in the church office by the end of December. The entrées are sliced sirloin with red wine reduction and Mary Me chicken, along with oven roasted red skin potatoes and steamed broccoli. Also included is a side salad, bakery rolls with butter and for dessert, cake.

**Epiphany Service**

**All are welcome** to attend the **Erie Conference Epiphany Service with Burning of the Greens** which will be held Monday, January 6, 2025, at 7:00pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Road. Celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord together with a candlelight Eucharist, with Pastor Kristen Papson preaching, followed by an outdoor burning of the Christmas greens. The Scandinavian custom of an Epiphany burning of the greens was introduced to Faith Lutheran by Pastor David Laakso; it has become a beloved local tradition. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the social hall. Dress warm for the bonfire; you may also watch from the comfort of the social hall if you prefer. A simple house blessing liturgy will be available to take and use at home this Epiphany season. If you would like to bring Christmas trees or greens from home to add to the bonfire, please contact Faith Lutheran Church to let them know.

**Items to Note**

**In case of a pastoral emergency**, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

**C A L E N D A R**

<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 30</b>		LMA Closed
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 31</b>		Church offices and LMA Closed
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1</b> <i>Happy New Year</i>		Church offices and LMA Closed
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 2</b>		
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 3</b>		
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 4</b>	10:00am	Quilt Meeting

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**THE EPIPHANY, *TRANSFERRED***

**Worship** with us at 8:15am or 10:30am in the main church.

<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	Les Fobes
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Jeanne Gaber
Video Streaming	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Jonathan Gaber
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Carl Moore



**READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE REMAINING 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

**January 1 – The Holy Name of Jesus** – Number 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21 -- *By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.*

**January 2** – Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18

**January 3** – Psalm 110; Probers 1:20-33; James 4:1-0

**January 4** – Psalm 110; Probers 3:1-12; James 4:11-7

**January 5** – Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31

**January 6 – The Epiphany of Jesus** – Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 -- *The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

**– PRAYER LIST –**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Our Members:**

Abbie & Ben Dixon	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Matt, Jessica Kinzig & family	Virginia Long	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes
Marilyn Bohn & family	Ann Flick		

**Friends and Family:**

Cheryl Runstedler	Jenn	Norma Lynch	Jenn Eddy
Jessica Bulos Grubb	Phil F.	Karen Culbertson	Curtis Krick
Leigh Ann Fassnacht	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Tom Dean
Branden Jones	Teddy & Rebecca	Jean Coburn	Cheryl Atkinson
Bernadette Mulder	Kevin D.	Tom Kraut	Steve Sensor
Andy Zimmerman	Jim Roberts	Bev	Dale Dannhaus
Betsy & Rudy, Sydney Kohn	Racheal Thompson	Joey & family	Michele Seifert
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Phil	Jane	Amy S.
Mary & Urban LaRicca	Carol Steffey & Marissa	Andrew Wachter	Chris Beckman
Cara & Bradley Kendra			

**Grief:**

Tina Clark DiNicola family	JoAnn Guilianelli family	Fred Kern family
Emma Houseman family		

**Our Military Service Men & Women:**

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	