Advent 4

December 22, 2024



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Lancaster, PA

The Holy Eucharist

Welcome to Advent! This season is necessary and important for us as we take this time to remind ourselves of our need of a Savior. The prayerful, thoughtful attitude of Advent makes our celebration of the birth of Christ a true time of happiness. Welcome into this time of preparation and hope.

If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

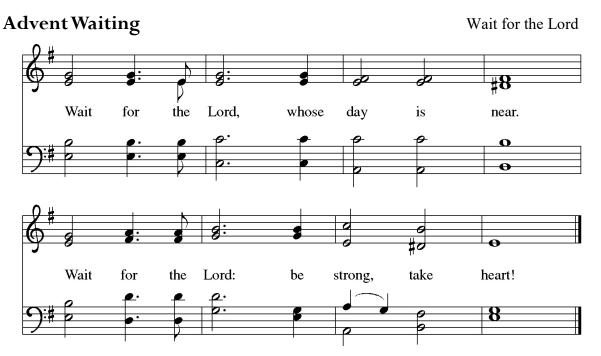
Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

The pass thru room at the top of the steps next to the office is now broadcasting our church service LIVE every Sunday. If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you are welcome to continue worshiping by viewing the service in that room.

Prelude

Announcements

Time of Prayer and Meditation



Taxt Take Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Centering Prayer

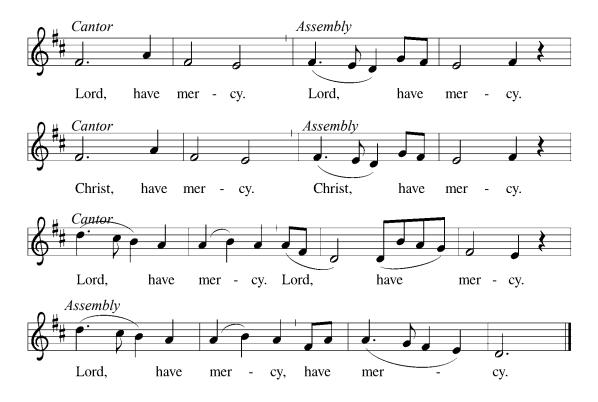
P We praise you, O God, for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! You set the foundations of the world, you lead your people into freedom, you lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things. Our hearts sing of our hopeful waiting! Center us in your Spirit, that our lives may witness to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please stand.

The Kyrie

The Kyrie is sung in dialogue by the cantor and the assembly.



Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \(\frac{1}{2}\) one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.
- C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P God of mercy,
- C we confess that we have sinned.
 We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
 We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
- P God of might,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.
- P God in our midst,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.
- P A righteous branch springs forth:
 it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
 in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
 By the power of the Holy Spirit,
 receive the grace and forgiveness of God
 through + Christ Jesus,
 whose day draws near.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Lift up Your Eyes Joel Rainey

Charlie & Suzann Schwenk and Marty Brunner

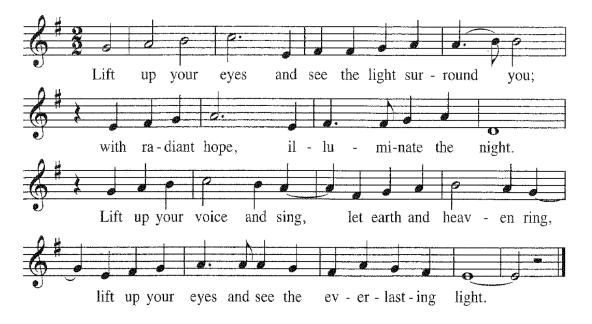
- R During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.
- C Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.
- R For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:
- C Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.
- R For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrows, God's work speaks:
- C Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.
- R For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's word speaks:
- C Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.
- R This morning we light four candles. When the darkness of life feels overwhelming, the **first candle** ignites our hope in God's unfailing truth. When the chaos of life seems all-consuming, the light of the **second candle** reveals the Prince of Peace. When humanity responds with senseless acts and hurtful words, the light of the **third candle** radiates God's command to love as we have been loved. The **fourth candle** reminds us that no matter what our circumstances, there is joy in the coming Christ who opens our eyes to the everlasting light.

The Advent Candle is lit.

- P Gracious God, we thank you for the way you have guided us throughout our Advent journey. As we move closer to the celebration of your birth we sense the wonder and joy. Continue to break into the dark areas of our world as you open our eyes to your hope, peace, love, and joy all around us. By your light, guide us as we walk in faith. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C Amen

Lift Up Your Eyes

The Congregation sings after the lighting of the Advent Candle



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First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah:

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
³Therefore he shall give them up until the

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 (Read responsively with the lector.)

- ⁴⁶And Mary said,
- "My soul magnifies the Lord,
- ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
- ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
- ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
- ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
- ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
- ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
- ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews: ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

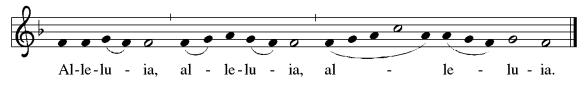
A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

Everyone sings the Alleluia. The choir then sings the verse. Everyone sings the Alleluia again.

All



Choir



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Repeat Alleluia

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

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he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please he seated.

The Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

The Hymn of the Day

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Hymn #251



Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat

praise the

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

and

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Pow'r of

the Most High, one

God, by

all

a - dored.

The Apostles Creed

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

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

The Prayers of the Church

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

Please sit or kneel for the prayers.

After each portion of the prayers:

- A Lord, in your mercy,
- C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

The Peace

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

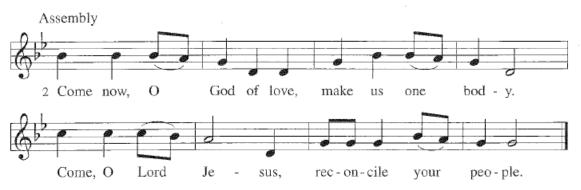
Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

Anthem

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Geonyong Lee



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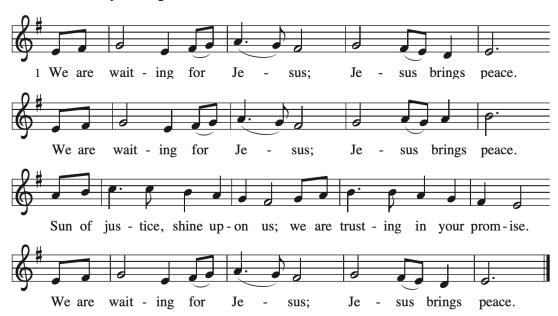
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Offering

During this time our offerings are represented through the gift of music, bread, and wine. Following the service you are invited to give your financial gifts in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.

The Offertory Response

We Are Waiting for Jesus



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music @ 2013 Augsburg Fortro

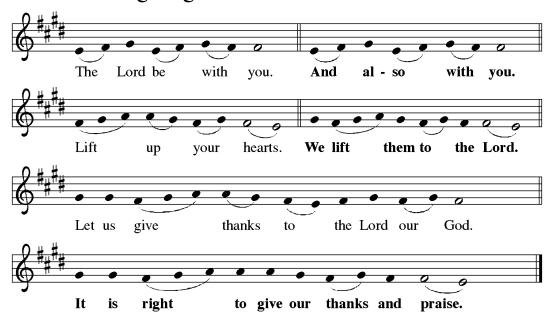
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Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

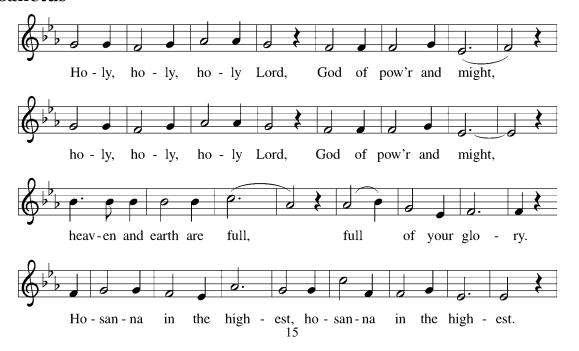
C Amen.

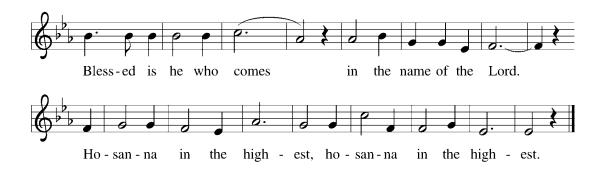
The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus





Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

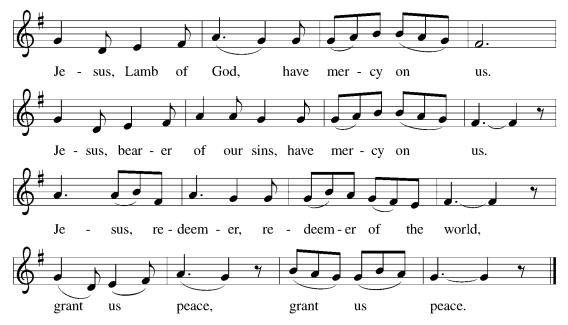
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

P God feeds us with mercy. Come to the table.

The Lamb of God



The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Pick up a communion cup as you approach the altar. We return to the practice of continuous communion around the Table with safe distancing by household groups. Please stand at the communion rail and the pastor will place the bread into the hands of communicants and then receive the cup from the Assisting Ministers. The second chalice contains grape juice. Gluten free bread is available upon request. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Hymns During Distribution

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah	Hymn #240
The King Shall Come	Hymn #260
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!	Hymn #246

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- dark ness.
- Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- let the light ban-ish Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: dark - ness.



shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, He God ful - fills the prom - ise.

shep-herd, gent - ly He shall feed the flock like a lead home-ward. them

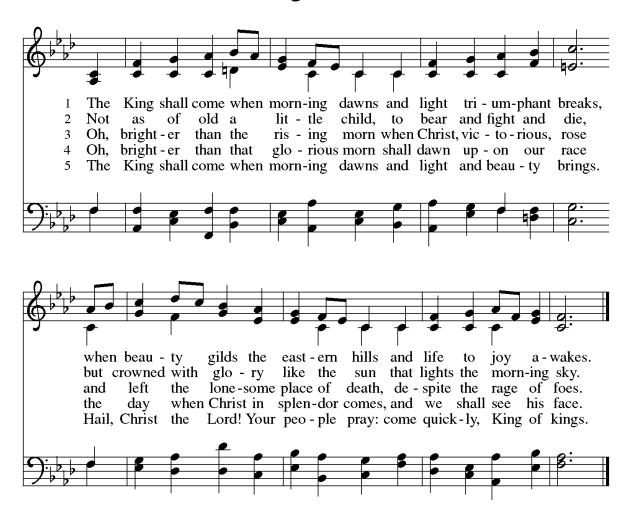
your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King Lift of glo - ry.

com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He shin - ing! be

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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

The King Shall Come

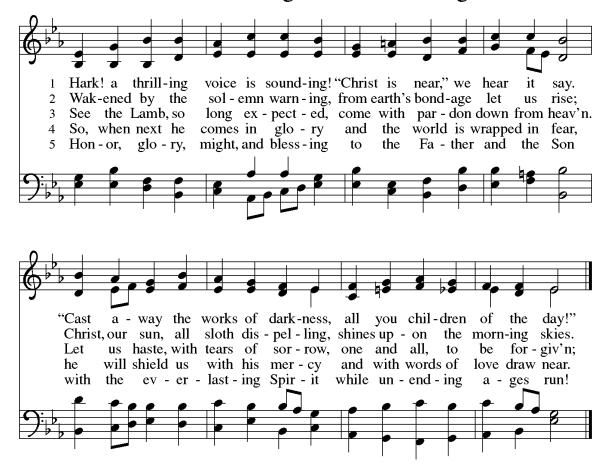


Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Please stand

The Post Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,

for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,

for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us

as we feed the hungry in your name.

C Amen.

The Blessing

P God of endings and beginnings,

God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey,

+ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

The Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymn #267

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+++

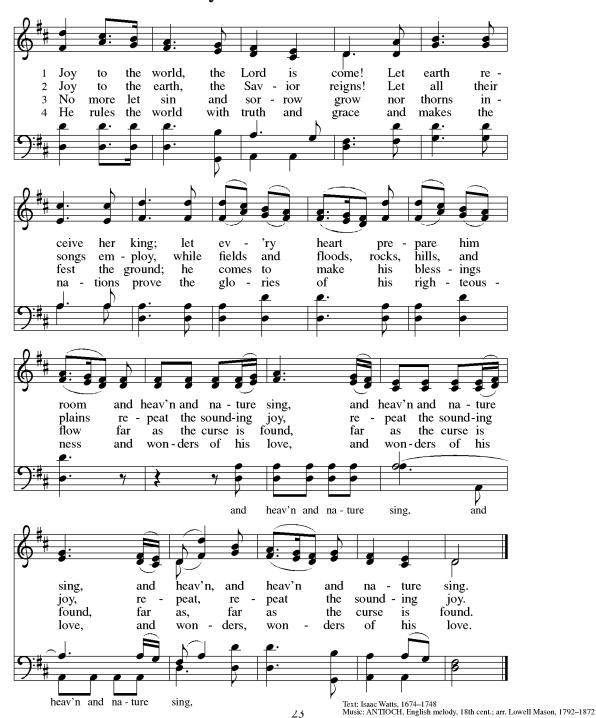
Sponsor

The bulletin is sponsored by Coleen Aston and dedicated to the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The text for next week:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

Joy to the World





Coming up at Holy Spirit

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services

3:00 p.m. &

7:30 p.m. Candlelight

January 5 Heritage Chorale, 4:00 p.m.

January 7 The Book Club, 7:00 p.m.

When The Swallows Come Back by Fiona Curnow

January 12 2nd Sunday: Baptism Art

Extravaganza



Acknowledgments

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717-394-6771 holyspiritluth@gmail.com www.holyspiritlutheran.org **Worship Assistants**

Dec. 22 Dec. 24 Dec. 24		
	3:00 pm	7:30 pm
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Sam Ruggerio	Charlie Schwenk	Acolyte- Sam Dandridge Torcher Bearers- Danica Dandridge & Melanie Dandridge Bible Bearer- Jeff Reed
Assisting	Assisting	Assisting
Minister	Minister	Minister
Chip Froehlich Candy Steiner	Chip Froehlich Patti LaPorte	Sandy Stouffer Tim Smith
Lector	Lector	Lector
Chip Froehlich	Chip Froelich	Betty Emich
Greeter	Greeter	Greeter
Linda Schmitt	Sayre Turney	Sayre Turney
Usher	Usher	Usher
Georgeanne Burkholder	Georgeanne Burkholder	Eric Bentley
Bread Provider	Bread Provider	Bread Provider
Marty Brunner	Sue Froehlich	Sue Froehlich
Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up
Sue Froelich	Sue Froehlich	Sayre Turney
Altar Guild Clean-up	Altar Guild Clean-up	Altar Guild Clean-up
Sue Froehlich Linda Rogers	Sue Froehlich	Sayre Turney Candy & Dennis Steiner
Council Person	Council Person	Council Person
Aleisha Brixius	Charlie Schwenk	Jan Wacker
Counters	Counters	Counters
Bob Slade		
Bob Stade		
Sandy Stouffer		
Sandy Stouffer Technology	Technology	Technology
Sandy Stouffer	Technology	Technology Chip Froehlich

3131 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Pastor- The Rev. Gretchen Ierien Music Director- Allison Carlson