Welcome
2nd Sunday after Christmas
January 3, 2021
Parking Lot Worship
Please turn your radio to Station 103.9 FM
Offering will be received as Pastor Heidi Punt hands out bulletins.

10:30 a.m.

UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ http://ulcsalisbury.org
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)

10:30 a.m. Parking Lot Worship
Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor -pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
(815) 883-4883
Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus
Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org
Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org
Facility Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - sexton@ulcsalisbury.org

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally Grounded - Congregationally Focused
PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen
The First Noel

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
   cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in a cold win - ter's
   earth it gave great light, and so it con -
   king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
   there in his pres - ence their gold, . . . and

2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
   in the east be - yond them far; and to the
   they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
   did both stop and stay right o - ver the

3. And by the light of that same star three . .
   wise men came from coun - try far; to seek for a
   rev - 'rent ly up - on their knee, and of - fered
   where in fields where
   there in his pres - ence their gold, . . . and

4. This star drew near to the north west, o'er . .
   Beth - le - hem it took its rest; and there it
   did both stop and stay right o - ver the

5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, full . .
   did both stop and stay right o - ver the
   there in his pres - ence their gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep,

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.
GREETING

The minister greets the congregation.

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

C And also with you.

KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mercy.

☐ Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. ☩ Amen
HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shepherds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sages, 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.

THE SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we might be made to abound in good works. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 3:4-15

4The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” 6And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. 7And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. 9Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” 10It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. 13I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. 14And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” 15And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Lay Reader

Here ends the reading.

PSALM 119:97-104 (spoken in unison)

97Oh, how I love your law!
   all the day long it is in my mind.
98Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies,
   and it is always with me.
99I have more understanding than all my teachers,
   for your decrees are my study.
100I am wiser than the elders,
   because I observe your commandments.
101I restrain my feet from every evil way,
   that I may keep your word.
102I do not shrink from your judgments,
   because you yourself have taught me.
103 How sweet are your words to my taste! 
  they are sweeter than honey to my mouth. 
104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; 
  therefore I hate every lying way.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HYMN: Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; 
  let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, 
  and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:40-52

40 The child {Jesus} grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” 49 And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Heidi Punt

No longer afraid.
We live in a world that threatens us with darkness; but the God of lights shines brightly
Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
we are marching in the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
Si'ya-hamb', ham-ba, si'ya-hamb', ham-ba,

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
We are marching in the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
we are marching in the light of, the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
we are marching in the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
we are marching in the light of, the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
we are marching in the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
we are marching in the light of, the light of God.

Si'ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
NICENE CREED
C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS
P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:
P Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:
P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.
BLESSING
The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.
P  The Lord bless you and keep you.
    The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
    The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C  Amen

CLOSING HYMN page 12 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

THE SENDING
The minister may dismiss the congregation.
P  Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C  Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Next Week’s Readings (January 10):
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11

Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Mary Brady in their time of grief. “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

Thank you to Dawn Merrell for sharing her musical talents with us!

Those Serving in January
Announcements and Lay Readers: Jennifer Curlee
Church Council Counter: Larry Barringer

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) Setting 1 (page 56-76)
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1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
3 As they offered gifts most rare At thy cradle, rude and bare,
4 Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;

As with joy they hailed its light, Leading on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last

So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by thee.
So may we with willing feet Ever seek thy mercy seat.
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav’n-ly king.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heav’nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.
SUNDAY’S ACTIVITIES (JANUARY 3):
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)
10:30 a.m. Parking Lot Worship (see page 2)
5:00 p.m. Quest Youth Zoom Meeting

2021 Offering Envelopes are available to pick up in the front pews in the Sanctuary. Please pick up offering envelopes of family members or friends that you plan to visit with.

OUR LOVE and SYMPATHY is extended to the Family of Mary Brady in their time of grief. “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES:

Tues., Jan. 5
5:30 p.m. Executive Committee
6:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee

Wed., Jan. 6
Feast of the Epiphany
6:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Live Nativity Feedback

Fri., Jan. 8
6:30 p.m. Staff Christmas Dinner

During the week the beautiful DECORATIONS from the CHRISTMAS SEASON will be taken down, packed carefully, and stored for another year. There is much work to be done and everyone is encouraged to come and help complete the task. Please contact Cheryl Kluttz, Deena Lanning, or Karen Morgan if you can help.

NEXT SUNDAY’S ACTIVITIES (JANUARY 10):
Baptism of Our Lord
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)
10:30 a.m. Parking Lot Worship (see page 2)
3:00 p.m. Church Council
5:00 p.m. Quest Youth Zoom Meeting
Deadline to sign up for Bible 101 Course 101
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School is a wonderful time to be with your friends and to make new ones in a smaller setting where you can connect the Word of God to your daily life, learn of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and grow in faith together. Sunday School meets at 9:30 AM, and there are age appropriate classes for children, teens, and adults alike.

During COVID-19 the Sunday School Teachers will take turns teaching classrooms for all ages. Please remember to practice social distancing.

Bible 101 Course 1010

beginning January 12 and January 13

An opportunity to participate in the next series of Bible Studies will begin on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

For more information please ask an Usher for a copy of the brochure.
Deadline to register is Sunday, January 10.

Worship Services Opportunities during the month of January

Parking Lot Worship at 10:30 a.m. with radio broadcast 103.9 FM. This worship service is structured specifically for those who have high risk health and other concerns. Worship will include a brief spoken liturgy, music, and social distancing between cars.

During COVID-19 we are offering the following if you do not feel comfortable worshipping in person you can: 1. Worship online by visiting our webpage (https://ulcsalisbury.org/worship/) 2. Connect with us on Facebook Live (https://facebook.com/ulcsalisbury) 3. Request a worship DVD

In January, the church office will begin working on the 2021 Church Yearbook. If you have any changes in your primary contact information (phone, address, email, etc.) please contact the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

All organizations, committees, groups, and individuals who are to turn in reports for the ANNUAL YEARBOOK REPORT, please do so by Sunday, January 17. This is a very important document in reflecting the life of Union’s for the past year and for planning activities for the coming year. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.
The Gift of Time

Time is one of the most precious gifts that you can give to anyone, yet one of the most challenging.

When my aunt was in a nursing home, she seemed to feel guilty when she received visits and attention because in her words, “I didn’t do it for others when I could have.”

Her words became a challenge for me to do things for others while I am able. What about you, while you can?

If you have gifts of compassion, comforting, listening, and confidentiality, might you be willing to share those gifts with ones who can no longer worship with us?

In an effort to assure that all of our members receive the care and attention that they should have and that we are called to give, the Lay Ministry Team invites you to our next meeting on Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss how you might be a part of this ministry.

Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to bless our members with special needs.

There are a variety of ways to serve, some post-COVID and some presently. Examples are: visiting in homes; visiting nursing facilities; hospital visits; surgical waiting; sharing communion; phone calls; sending cards; and delivering Sunday bulletins and Dvd’s.

Being a part of this ministry is a blessing and a privilege. The rewards you receive far outweigh the time that you give.

Love and Prayers, Deena Lanning, UELC Lay Minister

Good Timers
Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Good Timers will meet in January on Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m.

There has been a change in the January program, so please read carefully!! Our program will be “Stump Your Neighbor” then “Show and Tell.” Please bring with you an item (or items) that you may have inherited from your parents or grandparents, or even something that you yourself used to use and don’t use anymore – something that is NOT commonly used today. We will put all these items out for a guessing game, and then each person will “show and tell” about the item(s). You may bring more than one if you wish. So check around the house for those items that you think will stump your neighbor . . . let’s plan on having a lot of fun.

Due to COVID-19, we will not yet go out for lunch, but be patient, that day is coming!!

See you January 14 at 10:00 a.m. – weather permitting!!

Lay Ministers will meet Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 p.m.

Pastor Heidi will be in Haiti from Saturday, January 16-Saturday, January 23.

Give them the gift of Time.
PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER…

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, Ruth Monroe, and Jane Peeler, (Autumn Care), Jean Ray (Brookdale), Grace Morgan (The Laurels, Room 307B – cards are appreciated), and Betty Denker (Trinity Oaks, Apt. 123B)

**Homebound Members** - Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Zarah Plyler, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton


**Continual Prayer** - Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Evonne Batten (mother of Lisa Morgan), Yvette Bates (coworker of Karen Barringer), Martha Boger and Family (friends of Jennifer and Scott Curlee), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Arnold Cauble, Ophelia Curlee (sister-in-law of Grace Morgan), Karen DeMunbrun (niece of Grace Morgan), June Fraley, Sylvia Fraley, Sally Honeycutt (sister of Janie Lesley), Teresa Kesler, Edna McCollough (friend of Jennifer & Scott Curlee), David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), John Oddie, Jr. (brother of Ruby Leazer and Ruth Myers), Steven and Malynda Peeler, Steve Pless (friend of Pete Nguyen), Larry Shepherd, Jamie Troutman (nephew of Lynn Coughenour), and Union Fire Department #76

*Remember in Prayer List Note:* We strive to list the prayer requests and names correctly. Please let us know if a correction is needed or you would like a name added/or returned to the list. If there is a name that can be removed, please contact the church office with that information as well. In an effort to keep the list current, we will update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known prolonged/ongoing issues. Thank you!