



**Union Lutheran Church**  
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 Salisbury, NC 28146  
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 office@ulcsalisbury.org  
 www.ulcsalisbury.org



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

December 15, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Union Lutheran Church welcomes you as you join us in worship this morning. Please fill out the communion/visitor card so that we can be made aware of your presence. If you have questions or are interested in the ministries and life of Union, please see the pastor, contact the church office, or scan the QR code.

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by \*)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal  
 With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal  
 P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

*Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (Costello)

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

\* Invocation (Matthew 28:19) LBW p. 77

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

\* Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness (1 John 1:8-9) LBW p. 77

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

\* Absolution ([John 20:22-23](#))

**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

\* Hymn: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

LBW# 25

- 1** Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
- 2** The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The bridegroom is at hand.
- 3** The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him Their diadems of gold.
- 4** Our hopes and expectations, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurentii, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish folk tune

Augsburg Fortress License # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

\* Apostolic Greeting ([Romans 1:7](#))

LBW p. 78

**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 ([Mark 10:47](#))

LBW p. 78-79

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **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.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen**

*Hymn of Praise (Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9) is omitted during Advent.*

\* Salutation (2 Timothy 4:22) LBW p. 82

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

\* Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### Old Testament Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The first lesson is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Zephaniah.

<sup>14</sup>“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. <sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 85 *The psalm of the day is sung in unison.*

<sup>1</sup>**You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord,\***

you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people\*  
 and blotted out | all their sins.  
<sup>3</sup>You have withdrawn | all your fury\*  
 and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.  
<sup>4</sup>Restore us then, O | God our Savior;\*  
 let your anger de- | part from us.  
<sup>5</sup>Will you be displeased with | us forever?\*  
 will you prolong your anger from | age to age?  
<sup>6</sup>Will you not give us | life again,\*  
 that your people may re- | joice in you?  
<sup>7</sup>Show us your mer- | cy, O Lord,\*  
 and grant us | your salvation.  
<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying,\*  
 for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
 and to those who turn their | hearts to him.  
<sup>9</sup>Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,\*  
 that his glory may dwell | in our land.  
<sup>10</sup>Mercy and truth have | met together;\*  
 righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>Truth shall spring up | from the earth,\*  
 and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.  
<sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,\*  
 and our land will | yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall | go before him,\*  
 and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

New Testament Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

The second lesson is from the 4th chapter of Philippians.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L Here ends the reading.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(1st Candle: Prophecy/Hope)

(2nd Candle: Bethlehem/Faith)

(3rd Candle: Shepherds/Joy - often rose in color)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

WOV# 630

**1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

**3 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

**2 Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music: Yiddish folk tune, arr. Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Augsburg Fortress License # SBL10475H © AF Hymns License

### Children's Message

*Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.  
Following the Children's Message, the children are asked to sit with their families.*

\* Gospel Acclamation (Joel 2:12-15) LBW p. 83

**C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and  
abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 7th chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

\* Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18-28

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." <sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *Make It Real*

Pastor Heidi Punt

\* Hymn of the Day: *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry* LBW# 36

**1 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh.**

**Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin: make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.**
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621  
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\* Nicene Creed (**Romans 10:9-10**)

LBW p. 84

**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**

*\*\* Or, the holy Christian Church,*

\* Prayers of the Church (**1 Timothy 2:1-4**)

LBW p. 85

**A 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:*

**A 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**

\* Sharing of the Peace (**John 20:19**)

LBW p. 86

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

**C And also with you.**

Offering (**Malachi 3:10**)

*The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.*

*All loose offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund.*

*The monthly benevolence will go towards Battered Women's Shelter.*

Anthem: *Advent Carol* (Pamela Chun Wilt)

Chancel Choir

### **MEAL**

*God invites us to His table.*

\* Offertory (**1 Chronicles 29:14**)

**1 We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Tune: Mason and Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

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\* Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 88

**A Let us pray. Blessed are you,**

**C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

\* The Great Thanksgiving (**2 Timothy 4:22**)

LBW p. 88-91

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

**P Lift up your hearts.**

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**P It is indeed right and salutary . . . (*Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:**

\* Sanctus (**Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8-11**)

LBW p. 89

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

\* Words of Institution (33)

LBW p. 90

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P 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.

\* The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

LBW p. 91

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**

*Those who are assisting with Holy Communion are asked to come forward at this time.*

Agnus Dei (John 1:29)

LBW p. 92

C **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution of Communion (Mark 14:23)

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.*

*All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

*Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher as you follow their directions to the communion station.*

*Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request.*

\* Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

LBW p. 92

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

C **Amen**

\* Post-Communion Canticle (Luke 2:29-32)

LBW p. 93-94

C **Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

\* Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 94

P Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

\* Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LBW p. 95

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**

\* Hymn: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*

LBW# 34

1 **Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

2 **Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.** *Refrain*

3 **Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.** *Refrain*

4 **Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.** *Refrain*

5 **Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.** *Refrain*

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: *French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.*

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\* Blessing & Dismissal (Matthew 28:19)

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *On Jordan's Banks the Baptists Cry* (Cherwien)

**Those Serving in December**

**Acolytes:** Bailey Wilhelm and Lucas Wilhelm

**Altar Guild, Communion Assistants, and Lay Readers:**

Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

**Communion Assistants:** Frank Merrell

**Ushers:**

Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Tara Davis and Adam Thompson

**Offering Counters:**

Patsy Lyerly, Sonya Mulkey and Vivian Sprinkle

**Attendance**

December 8	45	Sunday School
December 8	112	Worship & Holy Communion
December 10	21	Advent Service 2nd week Peace
December 11	5	Advent Service 2nd week Peace

**Part 4: Holy Baptism**

The Means of Baptism – Part 1

How can water do such great things?



*It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God connected with the water and our faith which relies on that Word. For without the Word of God it is simply water and not Baptism.*

(Martin Luther’s Small Catechism ~ Sola Publishing 2010 Edition Pocket Version page 24)

**Union News**

**Sunday, December 15**

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir (5th grade and under) in Choir Room

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Joshua Takes Command ~ Joshua 1:1-18; Luke 12:32-34

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class ~ Joshua Takes Command

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class

A Father’s Prophecy ~ Luke 1:5-23, 57-80

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Lighting of Advent Candles: Hope/Prophet, Faith/Bethlehem, and Joy/Shepherds

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-28

Sermon: *Make It Real*

**1:30 p.m.** Executive Committee

**2:00 p.m.** Church Council with newly elected

**New: 2:00 p.m.** Christmas Program costumes

*Deadline for Poinsettia List: If you would like to place a memorial or honorarium with your poinsettia, please send the information to the church office by **today**.*

### **This Week's Schedule**

Tuesday, Dec. 17

**5:00 p.m.** Lay Ministers (*Drew Wise SS*)

**6:30 p.m.** Advent Worship in the Chapel

*The Light of Grace ~ Joy: Elizabeth (Philippians 4:4): The boy in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy and so does she when Mary arrives, carrying the little Lord Jesus inside her. The Light of Grace is soon to come.*

Wednesday, Dec. 18

**10:30 a.m.** Advent Worship in the Chapel

*The Light of Grace ~ Joy: Elizabeth*

**6:30 p.m.** Belles & Beaus

**7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir

*No Catechism Confirmation Class this week.*

Thursday, Dec. 19

**1:15 p.m.** to meet in the parking lot to travel to Concord to sing and visit with Rev. TC & Mary Plexico

*Everyone is invited to bring your own **poinsettia** from home on **Saturday, December 21**, at **11:00 a.m.** to decorate the Sanctuary.*

*All who share their poinsettias are requested to wait till Sunday, December 24, following the evening worship service before taking your flower home.*

*Please remember to mark your poinsettia with your name so you'll know which flower to pick up on the 24th.*

Saturday, Dec. 21

**6:30 p.m.** Christmas Program dress rehearsal

### **Sunday, December 22**

Everyone is invited to join us next Sunday, December 22. Our **Kids Choir** will be sharing a **Christmas Presentation** during the worship service. *All Kids Choir members are asked to be in the **Sanctuary** promptly by **9:15 a.m.***

The **Chancel Choir** will rehearse with our visiting flautist, Dr. Nancy Schneeloch-Bingham, next Sunday, December 22, at **9:30 a.m.** in the **Sanctuary**.

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

The Fall of Jericho ~ Joshua 6:1-21; 1 John 5:2-4

*As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet ... the wall fell down flat.*

(Joshua 6:20)

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School Class ~ The Fall of Jericho

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School Class  
Savior's Birth ~ Micah 5:1-6; Luke 2:1-20

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Lighting of the Advent Candles:  
Hope/Prophet, Faith/Bethlehem, Joy/Shepherds, and Peace/Angels

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sermon: *Stranger Things*

*Please pick up your 2025 envelopes from the lectern side front pew.*

*Newsletter articles deadline*

**New: 6:00 p.m.** Christmas Program Participants

**6:30 p.m.** Christmas Program with refreshments following  
in the large fellowship hall

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Next Sunday, December 22, Union will be privileged to have Dr. Nancy Schneeloch-Bingham as guest flautist during the worship service.

You may remember her from our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration as she assisted with directing the Belles & Beaus and the Chancel Choir during the service.

In appreciation for the warm welcome extended to her and the rest of the musicians, Dr. Bingham asked if she could come during the Advent season and share her talents with us.

Please make her feel welcome again!

Dawn Merrell, Music Director & Organist

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*In this season of gift giving to family, friends and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider a financial gift to Union. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work.*

*Deadline to receive credit for financial offerings/gifts for 2024 is Sunday, December 29.*

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**Offering Envelopes for 2025**

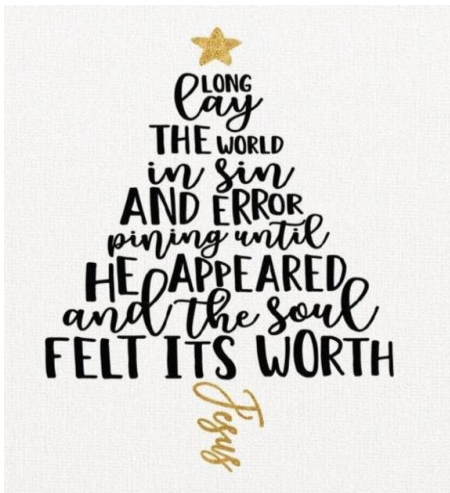


The 2025 offering envelopes for Adults and Children will be available from the front pew (lectern side) for pick up during the Christmas Holidays.

*It would be of great help when picking up your offering envelopes to also pick up family and friends you'll be visiting with during the holiday. This will help keep down the cost of postage. Thank you!*

Many of the offering envelope numbers will be updated for 2025 and we apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. Please do not use the new envelopes until Sunday, January 5, 2025.

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Please join us for  
**Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight Services**  
 Tuesday, December 24  
**4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary (informal)  
 and/or **7:40 p.m.** Prelude Music  
**8:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary  
 as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

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You are invited to join Union Lutheran Church (ULC) on **Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.** for a **Celebration Worship** in honor of **Dawn Frick Merrell's Music Ministry** at ULC and other congregations.

A luncheon will follow worship in the Dutch Meeting Hall. *(Please bring food to share. The Church Council will provide meat and drinks.)*

Please send any pictures you have of Dawn to Pastor Heidi Punt by Sunday, January 12. Be sure to have a favorite story ready to share during the luncheon.

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*Please note as of Christ the King Sunday, we have refreshed our prayer list and kindly ask that you please resubmit your prayer requests by filling out the prayer request card in the Narthex. If you have a praise report, we are always happy to hear about them too and invite you to share them with the church office to include in our monthly newsletter.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

**Nursing Homes** – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201) & Jay Rusher (Autumn Care), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56)

**Homebound/Shut-ins Members** – Sarah Bame, Rachel Earnhardt, Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Steve Arey, Doris Page, Macky Swicegood & Jamie Troutman

**Continual Prayer** – Jeff Matthews (cancer patient), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), especially for our NC neighbors affected by natural disasters & those affected by political disasters

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**OUR MISSION:** Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded ~ Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

**OUR 2024 VISION:** “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

**OUR 2024 ACTION PLAN:** “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...” (Matthew 25:35-40)



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**Union Lutheran Church**  
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Salisbury, NC 28146  
704.636.5092  
www.ulcsalisbury.org

Church Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor Heidi Punt, Senior Pastor (pastor@ulcsalisbury.org)

Dawn Merrell, Music Director & Organist

Phil Cauble, Facility Manager

Genevieve Baker, ULC Staff Support (office@ulcsalisbury.org)