



Union Lutheran Church

4770 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
704.636.5092
office@ulcsalisbury.org
www.ulcsalisbury.org



*I bring you good tidings of great joy....
Unto you is born this day...a Saviour. Luke 2:10-11*

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

The Common Thread: Oh, what fools sinners are. And being poor sinners, we are such fools. Yet even foolish sinners will never go astray if they walk in the Way of Holiness. Where is this road; how do we find it? Is it a highway built by kings or princes, nations or peoples? Or is it the roadway of he who watches over all sojourners? Is God himself the Way of Holiness? Jesus said he is the way ([John 14:6](#)). So, let us look to the Lord himself—not to a way of life, of living pious lives. The Lord is coming. Be patient. Ground your hearts in God's word; strengthen your faith by trusting in the Lord. He is coming for poor, foolish sinners such as ourselves, who walk in the Way of Holiness who is Jesus Christ the Savior of the World.

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.

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 1

Welcome & Announcements

Pete Nguyen

Prelude: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (Bach)

The altar candles are lit to represent Jesus' life and ministry.

The first Advent Candle is lit. The Hope Candle often called the Prophecy Candle, symbolizes hope and the anticipation of the Messiah, recalling the Old Testament prophecies of his coming.

The second Advent Candle is lit. The Peace Candle known as the Bethlehem Candle, represents the peace Christ brings and commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

The third Advent Candle is lit. The Joy Candle This can be a pink candle, also called the Shepherd's Candle, and it symbolizes the joy of the shepherds and the joy of anticipating Christ's birth and return.

GATHERING

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

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Invocation (Matthew 28:19)

LBW p. 56

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. 56

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: *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

LBW# 35

1 **Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.**

2 **He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

3 **He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.**

4 **Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Tune: attributed to Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
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Kyrie (*Mark 10:47*)

LBW p. 57-58

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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 the season of Advent.

Salutation (*2 Timothy 4:22*)

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.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

Children's Message

The children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message.

Following the Children's Message, the congregation will sing the following stanza of "I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart" while the children return to sit with their families.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart. Down in my heart. Down in my heart.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart. Down in my heart to stay.

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Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The first lesson is from the 35th chapter of Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L Here ends the reading.

New Testament Lesson: James 5:7-11

The second lesson is from the 5th chapter of James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L Here ends the reading.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation (John 6:68)

LBW p. 62

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-25

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon Series on Isaiah: *Proclaim Joy*

Pastor Heidi Punt

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Hymn of the Day: *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 hope and expectation, 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 Laurenti, 1660-1722 Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907 (alt.) Tune: Swedish folk tune
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Holy Baptism of Harley Kay Cauble and Andrea Marie Cauble

LBW p. 121-125

The candidates, sponsor, and family gather at the font.

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P [Harley Kay Cauble] and [Andrea Marie Cauble] do you desire to be baptized?

R I do.

Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that *those* who *are* here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of *all those* who *are* cleansed by this water and bring *them* forth as *inheritors* of your glorious kingdom.

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

C Amen

Renunciation and Profession

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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**

*Or, He descended to the dead.

** Or, the holy Christian Church,

Baptism

P [Harley Kay Cauble] and [Andrea Marie Cauble], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Those who have been baptized kneel. The minister lays both hands on the head of each of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit:

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon [Harley Kay Cauble] and [Andrea Marie Cauble]: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C **Amen**

Signing with the Cross

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

P [Harley Kay Cauble] and [Andrea Marie Cauble] children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The sponsor or the baptized responds: Amen

After all have received the sign of the cross, they stand.

Giving of the Light

A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child) by a representative of the congregation who says:

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Welcome

The ministers and the baptismal group turn toward the congregation; a representative of the congregation says:

P Through Baptism God has made *these* new *sisters members* of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

Affirmation of Baptism

LBW p. 198-201

The candidates, sponsor, and family gather at the font.

Presentation (Adam Lee Leffew, Addison Diane Queen, and Scott Michael Queen)

A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:

L These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desires to make public affirmation of his baptism.

Candidates names are read. Adam Lee Leffew, Addison Diane Queen, and Scott Michael Queen

P Dear friends, we rejoice you now desire to make public professions of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

Profession of Faith

P *Brothers and Sister in Christ:* in Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

The prayers

A Let us pray for *Adam, Addison and Scott* who are affirming *their* baptisms, and for all the baptized everywhere: that *they* may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: that the Holy Spirit may open *their* hearts to your grace and truth: that *they* may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy church: that *they* may be sent into the world in witness to your love: that *they* may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

Declaration of Intent

P *Adam, Addison and Scott* you have made public professions of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Blessing

The confirmands kneels. A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for them.

P Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made *these sons and daughter* as your own. You forgave *them* all of *their* sins and brought *them* to newness of life. Continue to strengthen *them* with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in *them* your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen**

The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of the confirmand:

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in [Adam Lee Leffew], [Addison Diane Queen] and [Scott Michael Queen] the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *their* faith, guide *their* life, empower *them* in *their* service, give *them* patience in suffering, and bring *them* to everlasting life.

R Amen.

Sharing of the Peace (John 20:19)

LBW p. 65

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

Offering (Malachi 3:10)

The Offering is received while the Lord's Table is prepared.

The loose offering will go towards Gerald Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The monthly benevolence focus is the Battered Women's Shelter.

Anthem: *A New King Is Comin'* (Walter Rodby)

Chancel Choir

MEAL

God invites us to His table.

The congregation is invited to stand as able.

Offertory (Isaiah 25:6-8; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

LBW p. 66

C **Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 68

(Romans 12:1; Proverbs 3:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

P 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; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136)

LBW p. 68-71

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)

LBW p. 69

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. 70

(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. 71

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**

Please be seated.

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

Distribution of Communion (Mark 14:23)

Harley Cauble, Andrea Caulbe, Adam Leffew, Scott Queen and Families will be communed first.

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.

Agnus Dei (John 1:29)

LBW p. 72

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.**

Communion Music

The congregation is invited to stand as able at the close of the table.

Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

LBW p. 72

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

C **Amen**

Post-Communion Cantic (Psalm 105:1-4, 1 Chronicles 16:8-32; Psalm 107:1-3) LBW p. 72-23

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Post-Communion Prayer

LBW p. 74

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. 74

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: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

LBW# 31

- 1** Wake, awake, for night is flying, The watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices,
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake; Your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!
Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, Whose light has stirred the waiting guard.
- 2** Zion hears the watchmen singing, And in her heart new joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom, For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her Star is ris'n; her light is come.
Oh, come, you Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!
We go until the halls we view Where you have bid us dine with you.
- 3** Now let all the heav'ns adore you, And saints and angels sing before you.
The harps and cymbals all unite. Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal, We gather round your dazzling light.
No eye has seen, no ear Has yet been trained to hear. What joy is ours!
Crescendos rise; your halls resound; Hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

Text: Philip Nicolai, 1556-1608 Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878 (alt.) Tune: Philip Nicolai, 1556-1608

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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: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (Hobby)

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 pages 56-76

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Attendance Update

December 7	37	Sunday School
December 7	110	Worship & Holy Communion
December 9	31	The Case for Christmas (week 2)

Teaching Moment: Lutherans at Worship ~ Glossary of Lutheran Terms

Flagon (Pitcher-like vessel used to hold wine before pouring it into the chalice for Holy Communion.

Font (Basin which holds water for Holy Baptism; from the Latin for “fountain.”

Fraction (Ceremonial breaking of bread for distribution in Holy Communion.

Frontal (Parament which covers front of the altar.)

(Lutherans at Worship by S. Anita Stauffer, Gilbert A. Doan, and Michael B. Aune page 92)

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Those Serving Sunday, December 14

Guest Organist: Dawn Merrell

Acolytes: Mallory Eagle and Moses Miller

Altar Guild and Communion Assistants: Mallory Eagle, Patsy Lyerly, Moses Miller, Angie Poole, and Vivian Sprinkle

Lay Reader: Doris Shepherd

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Phil Cauble, Tara Davis and Adam Thompson

Sound System: Thad Mulkey, Dusty Morgan, Sr., and Dusty Morgan, Jr.

Live Streaming: Pete Nguyen

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Kluttz Painter, and Ronald Vellines

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Our Love and Sympathy is extended to the Family of Roy Edward Zimmermann (April 6, 1938-December 8, 2025).

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Sunday, December 14

Loose Offering: Gearld Bame Memorial Scholarship Fund

Mission Project: Angel Tree for Battered Women’s Shelter (Deadline December 14)

Sunday, December 14

Benevolence: Battered Women’s Shelter

Deadline December 14: Luminary List & Poinsettia List

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Luke 1:5-25, 57-66; Malachi 4:5-6

The angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. “ (Luke 1:13)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Luke 1:5-25, 57-66; Malachi 4:5-6

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School

Our Heavenly Father

Ephesians 1:3-10; Exodus 34:4-7; Psalm 103:10-14; Isaiah 40:27-31; Matthew 6:24-34

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-11; Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Series on Isaiah: *Proclaim Joy*

We welcome Harley Kay Cauble and Andrea Marie Cauble as baptized members by Holy Baptism today.

We welcome Adam Lee Leffew, Addison Diane Queen and Scott Michael Queen as baptized and confirmed members by Affirmation of Faith today.

12 noon Christian Education Umbrella *(Please bring a bag lunch.)*

2:00 p.m. Church Council

4:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Music Practice

7:00 p.m. Lutheran Seminar Class (Holy Trinity, Troutman)

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Tuesday, December 16

6:00 p.m. Advent Meal *(Dutch Meeting Hall)*

6:30 p.m. A Case for Christmas ~ *The Prophetic Fingerprint (Dutch Meeting Hall)*

Zechariah 9:9-14; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Matthew 21:1-10

Wednesday, December 17

12 noon One Minute of Intentional Prayer

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

No Catechism on Wednesday, December 17

Thursday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Good Timers
Christmas Drop-In at Frank & Dawn Merrell's home

Saturday, December 20

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Poinsettia Drop Off (*Sanctuary*)
6:15 p.m. Christmas Program & Music Dress Rehearsal (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

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Sunday, December 21

Loose Offering: Building & Repair Fund

Benevolence: Battered Women's Shelter

Deadline: newsletter articles

9:15 a.m. Little Lutherans (music)

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

Jesus is Born ~ Luke 2:1-20; Micah 5:2-5a

She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 ESV)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School

Jesus is Born ~ Luke 2:1-20; Micah 5:2-5a

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School

Christ the Savior

2 Timothy 2:8-13; John 3:14-17; 10:9-11, 14-16, 27-28; Luke 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-10

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Series on Isaiah: *Proclaim Love*

The congregation, family, and friends, are cordially invited to our annual Christmas program. To add to the celebration, guests are kindly asked to bring a holiday dessert or special treat to share!

Please place your goodies on the serving table by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21.

6:15 p.m. Christmas Program Participants

6:30 p.m. A Christmas to Believe In (*Dutch Meeting Hall*) with refreshments following

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Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

12 noon One Minute of Intentional Prayer

4:00 p.m. Informal Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (*Sanctuary*)

7:40 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (*Sanctuary*)

No Catechism, Belles & Beaus, and Chancel Choir on Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Dusty Morgan, Sr. (*Dutch Meeting Hall*)

Church Office is closed on Wednesday, December 24-Thursday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Friday, December 26

January Messenger & Handouts printed

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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.
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The **2026 offering envelopes** for Adults and Children will be available from the front pew 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!

Please do not use them until Sunday, January 4, 2026.

If you received a physical offering envelopes in 2025, the same number has been assigned for 2026, with few exceptions.

To receive a physical envelope please contact the church office.

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Sunday, December 28

Loose Offering: Youth Missions

Benevolence: Battered Women's Shelter

Deadline: 2025 Tax Contributions

9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday School

John Points to Jesus

John 1:19-34; Isaiah 40:1-5

John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him... I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." (John 1:32, 34)

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

Rabbit Hole Adult Sunday School

John Points to Jesus ~ John 1:19-34; Isaiah 40:1-5

Drew Wise Adult Sunday School

The Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:14-21; John 3:5-8; 14:16-17, 26: 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Acts 2:1-21; 32-33; 2 Corinthians 12:1-13; Romans 8:12-17, 26-27

10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols

1:00 p.m. Cauble Family Christmas (*Old Pine Center*)

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Homes – Brenda Mahaley (Autumn Care Room 815), Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care Room 818), Jean Ray (Autumn Care Room 201), Pat Kluttz (Brookdale Room 56), Donnell Miller (Bethany Woods, Albemarle), Ann Tucker (Oak Park Retirement Room 236)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members/Special Needs – Sarah Bame, Tom Cole, Kiki Deaton, Rachel Earnhardt, Madison “Drew” Harrington, Linda Hartley, Pete Honbarrier, Howell and Teresa Kesler, James & Jean Kluttz, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, Harold Miller, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery – Genevieve Baker, Ken Davis, Jason Earnhardt, Susan Knight, Doris Ludwick, Patsy Lyerly, Richard and Kay Lyons, Troy Painter, Raelynn Rodgers, Dalton Thompson & Brad Trexler

Continual Prayer – Amy Dunford (Scott & Jennifer Curlee’s friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, SON Ministries, Slovakia & Haiti), especially those affected by political unrest & those affected by natural disasters (Jamacia, Haiti, Alaska, North Dakota, Dominican Republic)

Prayers for Comfort: Larry Barringer’s Family, Lela and Tyler Brooks, Sarah Holshouser’s Family, John and Nancy Kesler Family, Don Simmons Family (guest organist), Wayne Vellines Family

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

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

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

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2025 Church Council Members

2023-2025

Ali Davis
Vicki Hunter (Secretary)
Sharon Leazer
Dusty Morgan, Sr. (President)
Ethan Wilhelm (6-month term)

2024-2026

Phil Cauble
Kevin Huffman
John Knight (Treasurer)
Thad Mulkey

2025-2027

Karen Barringer
Pete Nguyen (Vice-President)
Brad Trexler

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Lay Ministers:

Tara Davis, Vicki Hunter, Steve Hutchens, Elbert Kluttz and Deena Lanning

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Union Lutheran Church

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

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

Phil Cauble, Facility Manager

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

Pastor T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

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Poinsettias



You are invited to add to the beauty of our Sanctuary this Christmas by placing and dedicating a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. The beautiful flowers will adorn the Sanctuary throughout the Christmas season, serving as a living tribute to those who have touched our lives.

Dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Please drop off to the Sanctuary your signed poinsettia on Saturday, December 20, between 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

You may take your plant(s) home after Sunday, December 28.

Deadline: Sunday, December 14



In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

From _____

Please fill out the form and mark on envelope: Poinsettia

Deadline: Sunday, December 14

A poinsettia booklet will be printed and available on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Lighting Luminaries in Honor and/or in Memory of



We invite you to join us for our annual lighting of the Luminaries (Christmas Program, December 21, & Christmas Eve, December 24) as we gather to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have touched our hearts. You can dedicate a luminary in memory of a loved one, someone currently battling a serious illness, or anyone you wish to honor.

Each lit candle represents hope, remembrance, and support.

Suggested donation: \$5 per event per bag or \$7 for both events

Proceeds will go towards both the Mission Outreach and General Fund.

Deadline: Sunday, December 14



In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Events:

_____ December 21 (Christmas Program) _____ Christmas Eve, December 24

_____ Both December 21 & 24

From _____

Please fill out the form and mark on envelope & check: Luminary

Deadline: Sunday, December 14

A luminary booklet will be printed and available on December 21 & 24.