Advent 4

December 21, 2025



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.

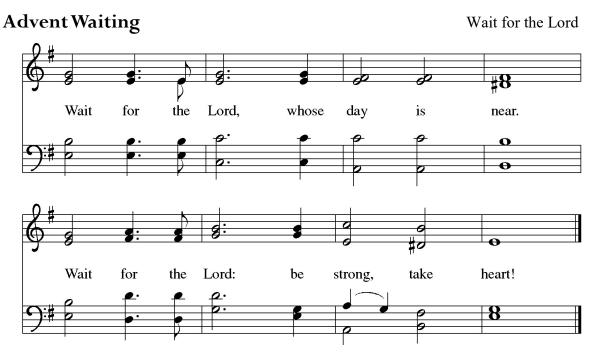
Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

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.

Announcements

Prelude

Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation



Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and mass of 1944 Les Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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Centering Prayer

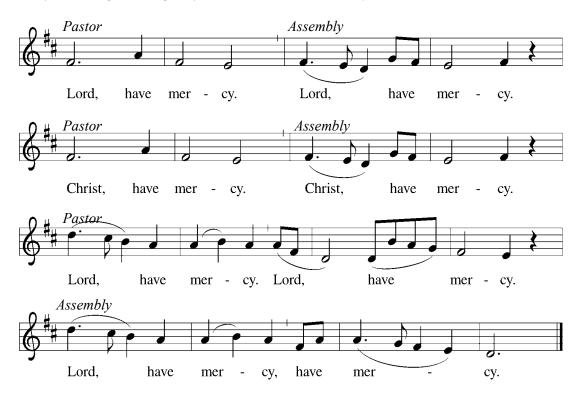
We praise you, O God, for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! You set the foundations of the world, you lead your people into freedom, you lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things. Our hearts sing of our hopeful waiting! Center us in your Spirit, that our lives may witness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

Amen.

Please stand.

The Kyrie

The Kyrie is sung in dialogue by the Pastor 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, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Long-expected God,
- C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

- P God judges us not as we deserve,
 but according to God's own righteousness.
 + You are freed and forgiven,
 saved by grace,
 and ready to welcome the Savior.
- C Amen

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

JoAnne Matos & Wes Matos

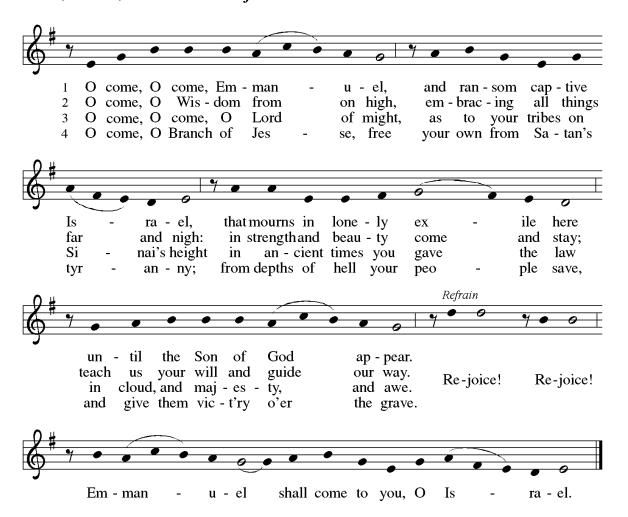
- R During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not over come it.
- C Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.
- R For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:
- C Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.
- 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

The Congregation sings after the lighting of the Advent Candle

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: verse four



First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Read responsively with the lector.)

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

- ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

- ¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
- 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

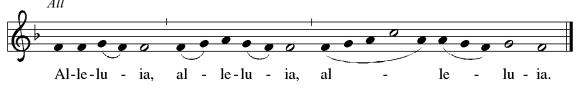
⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.





Lord, to whom shall we go?

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

Repeat Alleluia

The Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

Matthew 1:18-25

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

The Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Hymn #265

The Choir will sing verse one, the Congregation will join in for the remaining verses.



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

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.

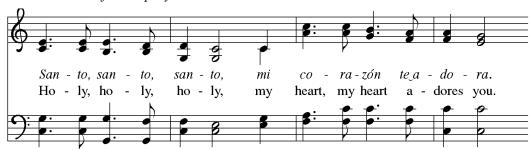
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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 In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers.





Text: Argentine traditional Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

After each portion of the prayers:

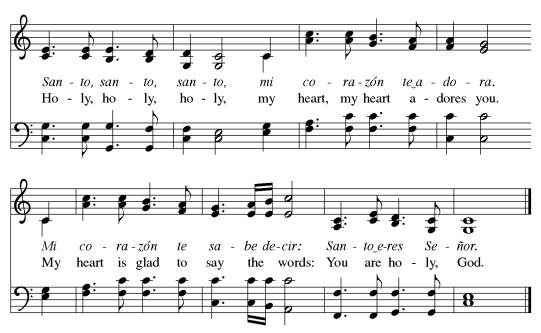
A God of Grace,

C Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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

The Congregation will join for the second verse, when indicated.

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Arr. by Jeremy Bankson

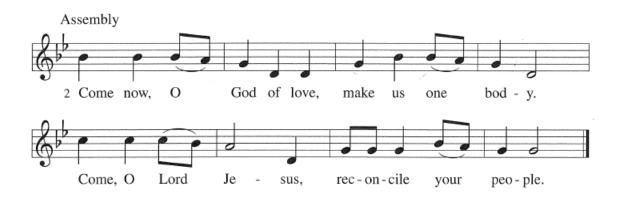
Choir

Patti LaPorte- American sign language

Kayt Tourville-flute

Candy Steiner- organ

Christ Tourville-percussion



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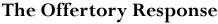
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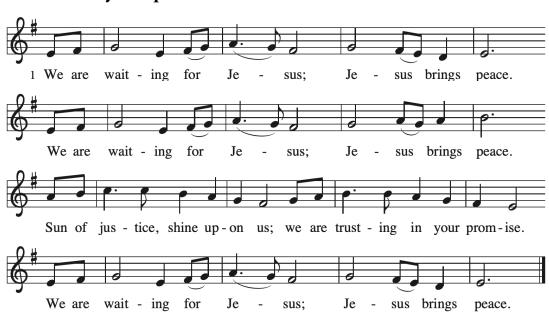
Offering

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.

Please stand



We Are Waiting for Jesus



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

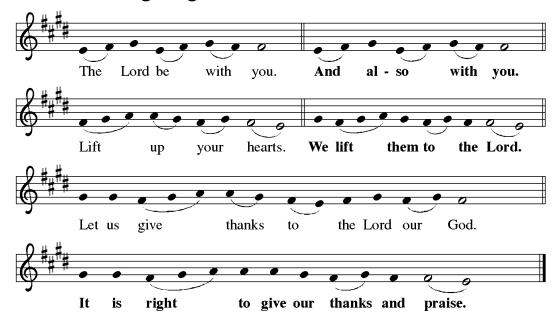
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Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

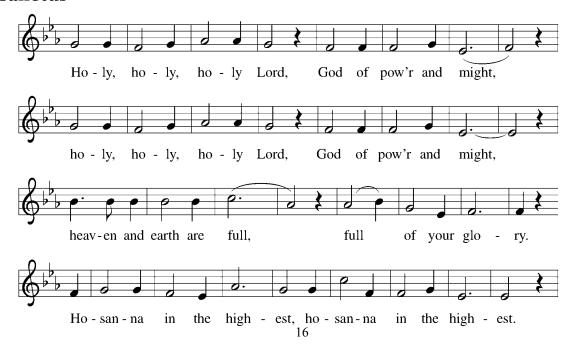
C Amen.

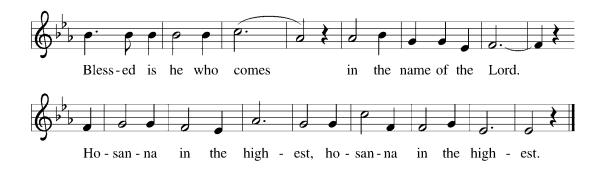
The Great Thanksgiving



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.

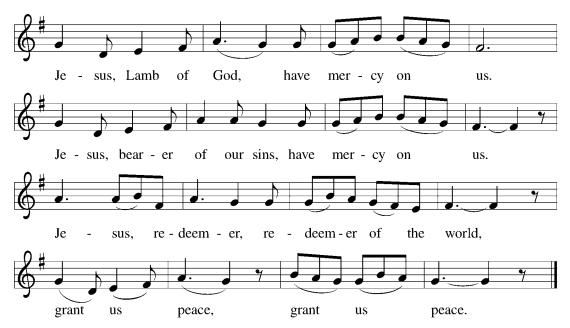
18

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 Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

The Lamb of God



Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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
Savior of the Nations, Come	Hymn #263
Hark, the Glad Sound!	Hymn #239

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



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



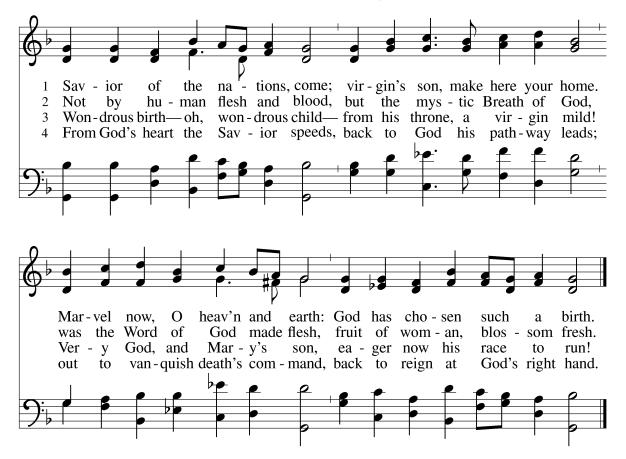
shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, He God ful - fills the prom - ise. shep-herd, gent - ly He shall feed the flock like a lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for Lift the King of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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

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Savior of the Nations, Come



5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

The Blessing

P May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

The Sending Hymn

Joy to the World Hymn #267

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+++

Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Sponsor

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

The text for next week:

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

Acknowledgements

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Advent readings by Joel Rainey.

Worship Assistants

Dec. 21	Christmas Eve 3:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m.
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Jeff Reed	Acolyte-Charlie Schwenk Torches-Sam & Chris Ruggiero	Acolyte -Danica Dandridge Torches-Melanie Dandridge & Iriana Ramirez
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Tim Brixius Sharon Bentley	Chip Froehlich	Tim Smith Patti LaPorte
Lector	Lector	Lector
Tim Brixius	Suzann Schwenk	Betty Emich
Greeter	Greeter	Greeter
JoAnn Matos	Suzann Schwenk Sayre Turney	Betty Emich Sayre Turney
Usher	Usher	Usher
Don Eckert		Jeff Reed
Bread Provider	Bread Provider	Bread Provider
Sue Froehlich	Sue Froehlich	Sue Froehlich
Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up
Sue Froehlich	Sue Froehlich	Sue Froehlich
Altar Guild Clean-up	Sayre Turney Altar Guild Clean-up	Sayre Turney Altar Guild Clean-up
Sue Froehlich	Sue Froehlich Sayre Turney	Sayre Turney Candy & Dennis Steiner
Council Person	Council Person	Council Person
Dennis Steiner	Charlie Schwenk	Doug Dandridge
Counters		
D A C '41		
BA Smith]	
Sandy Rohrback		
Sandy Rohrback Technology		
Sandy Rohrback		



Coming up at Holy Spirit

Today	Decorate the Church for Christmas,
	following worship.

2026

Jan. 2-4 Winterfest, <i>regi</i>	stration due Dec. 21
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	Jan. 4	Heritage Chorale Conce	rt
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Jan. 6	Book Club, 7:00 p.m.
	The Vintage Teacup Club by Vanessa Greene

Jan. 7	Drover	& Meditation:	In Dargan	10.00 a m
Jan. /	Prayer	& Meditation:	in Person,	10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m. Choir. All are welcome!

Jan. 11 Second Sunday: Treasurer Hunt

