

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

1742 Dinkey Road

Lehighton, PA 18235

610-377-4242

www.dmlcashfield.com

Zoom ID: 586 370 219



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*To all who are lonely and need fellowship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church opens its arms and bids you **welcome!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING – TO BENEFIT THE DISCRETIONARY FUND

GATHERING

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
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.

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.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might,
free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your
promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

Amen.

ADVENT WREATH *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240, verse 4)

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Isaiah.

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

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.”

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
 stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³ Restore | us, O God;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD | God of hosts,**
 how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R

⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
 and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**

the one you have made so strong¹ for yourself.

¹⁸ And so will we never turn a-¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up-¹ on your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD¹ God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we¹ shall be saved. R

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Romans.

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

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.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

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:

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.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

This year's program is a combined effort between Dinkey Memorial and St. John's. It will feature a presentation of the children's book "The Grumpy Shepherd" by Paddie Devon and the song "Noel" by Lauren Daigle.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)

APOSTLES CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

A brief silence.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service.

Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

OFFERING

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical notation consists of four lines of music in G clef, common time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a line of music. The lyrics are: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit." The music features eighth and sixteenth note patterns, with some rests and a final double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *What Child Is This* (ELW 296)

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Let the service begin.

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

From *Sundays & Seasons*, © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

DINKEY MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 21, 2025

The Altar Flowers are sponsored today by Courtney Van Fossen to the Glory of God.

The Bulletins are sponsored today by Joan & Steve Vayda in memory of Loved Ones.

Flower and bulletin charts for **2026** are on the bulletin board above the stairs. You may either sign up on the charts or by calling the office at 610-377-4242. It is appreciated if you pay for your sponsorship by the end of the month that you have sponsored. **All weeks are open for the Memorial Bowl. It is very important for flower sponsors to return the cans and plastic gold bowls that they take the flowers home in. Thank you very much for your cooperation.**

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM;
(610)377-4242

The Week Ahead:

Today	9:00AM	4th Sunday of Advent Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
	12:30PM	Confirmation
Wednesday	3:00PM	Christmas Eve Worship (SJ)
	5:00PM	Christmas Eve Worship (D)
	10:00PM	Christmas Eve Worship (D)
Thursday		Merry Christmas
Sunday	9:00AM	1st Sunday after Christmas Worship

A special thank you to our Sunday School teachers, parents, and students for all their hard work in presenting this year's Christmas program.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! December 21 to December 27

12/21 Adam Howard
12/22 Hali Keck
12/22 Debra Lilly

12/23 Holli Solt
12/24 Arlene Bisbing
12/25 Scott Berger

Giant Gift Cards: If you would like to purchase any Giant Gift Cards please see Kathy Steigerwalt. We receive 5% from each gift card sold.

Fundraising: Dinkey is selling Streak free cloths; \$5 each. Please contact Jan in the office if interested.

Pizza Fundraiser: Dinkey will be having a pizza kit fundraiser; orders due by January 18, 2026; pick up on February 5, 2026. Order sheet in the back of church or call Karen Schleicher (610)390-1125 or the church office (610)377-4242.

Lehighton Cold Weather Station: The LCWS is an important ministry for the homeless in the Lehighton area. When the temperature drops below 25 degrees overnight, the station is open to anyone in need to have a warm place to sleep overnight. Volunteers and donations are always needed.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM OR ASSOCIATED WITH DINKEY MEMORIAL

Noah K. Kunkel PSC41 Box 6927 APO AE 09464
1st Lt. Benjamin Cordova, 9300 Valencia St., Tucson, AZ 85747
Brendan Schleicher El Paso, Texas

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Darwin Berger
Arlene Bisbing
Sheila Flickinger
Tess Hinger

Debbie Meckel
Gordon Scherer
Alice Scitney
Debra Strohl

SICK/HOSPITALIZED/SPECIAL NEEDS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Faith Beck	Dick German	Deb Lilly
Sherri Bowman	Joseph Gorman	Emily Persinger
Robert Coccio	Stephen Hoffman	Kenny Schleicher
Rick D	Barbara Niehoff Janco	Tom Scott
Lauren Dugan	Doug Keller	Kathy Steigerwalt
Candy Everett	Sandy Keller	Tanner Schleicher
Louise Everett	Joe Kluk	Patti Walck
Ann German	Jim Koch	

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<u>Ministers:</u>	The Congregation
<u>Pastor:</u>	Reverend Anthony Pagotto
<u>Musician:</u>	Bella Moyer
<u>Greeters:</u>	Sunday School
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Larkin Klotz
<u>Lector:</u>	Sunday School

Worship Participants for December 28, 2025:

<u>Greeters:</u>	Everett
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Jaxon Markell
<u>Lector:</u>	Rich DeLuca

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Gio - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 714794-

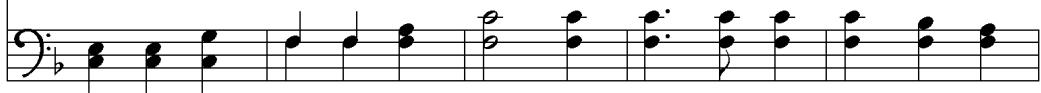
Away in a Manger



1 A-way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit-tle Lord
2 The cat-tle are low-ing; the ba-by a-wakes, but lit-tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je-sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je-sus, no cry-ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je-sus; look
ev-er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil-dren in



down from the sky and stay by my cra-dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten-der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.



Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 714794-A

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 714794-A