

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

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Sherry Fahnestock
Organist

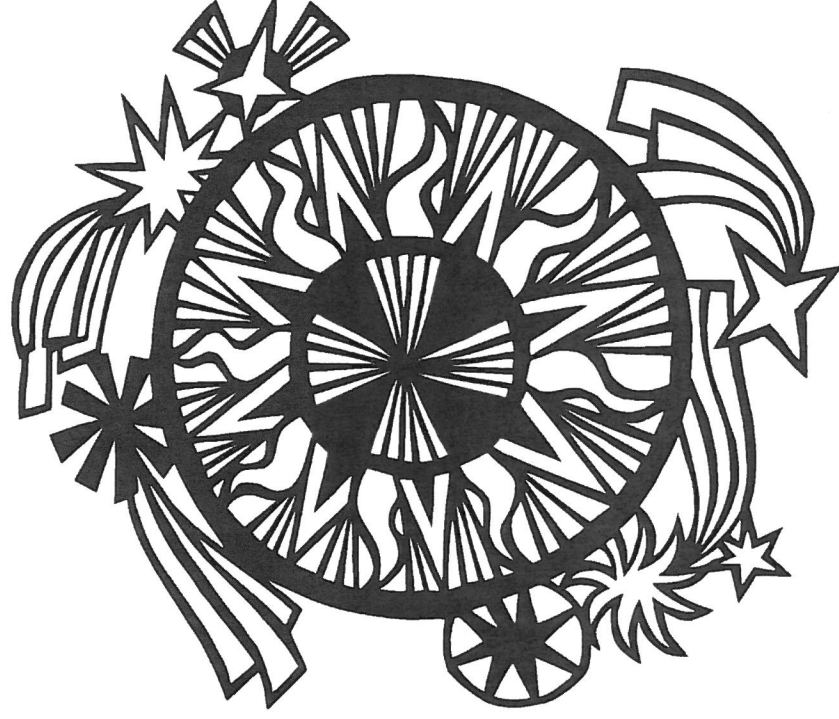
Pastor William Smith
Scotland United Methodist Church
Oterbein United Methodist Church

Pastor Christopher Frye
St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church



St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
2695 Luther Drive | Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

**Longest Night
Blue Christmas Evening Prayer**
December 21, 2022, 7:00 PM



Gathering Music	<i>Songs of Hope</i>	Lani Smith			Fourth Reading John 1:1-5, 14
Welcome					Hymn: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Opening Hymn				ELW 561	Hymn <i>Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory</i>
Greeting & Thanksgiving for Light					The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.					It is right to give our thanks and praise.
We give thanks, O God, for in the beginning . . . in the unity of the Holy Spirit,					now and forever.
Amen					
Psalms 27 and Prayer					First Reading The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Hymn:				ELW 272, vs. 1-2	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>
Second Reading				Isaiah 40:1-11	The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Hymn:				ELW 272, vs. 3-4	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>
Third Reading				Matthew 11:28-30	The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Hymn:				ELW 251, vs 1-2	<i>My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness</i>
Postlude					Advent Contemplation
Sending Hymn					<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>
Blessing					Edward Broughton
Lord's Prayer					+ + + 0 +

Offering
Little Daisy's Closet is a Christian based 501(c)(3) community outreach nonprofit organization that shares the love of Jesus by offering NO COST quality seasonal clothing, toys, kitchen & housewares, personal care items, pet food and nonperishable food to anyone in need.

Candle Lighting
a candle for Love
a candle for Joy
a candle for Memories
a candle for Tears
a candle for Hope
a candle for Peace
a candle for Strength
Little Daisy's Closet, Chambersburg

Reflection

Hymn:
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness
ELW 251, v. 3