

The Recipe of Christmas



Welcome to Hope!

We are delighted to have you with us as we gather to worship and prepare our hearts for the season of Christmas. This year, our theme is The Recipe of Christmas—a beautiful reflection on the key ingredients of this holy season: Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. Together, we explore how each of these gifts points us to the birth of Jesus, the Savior who brings light and life to the world. May your time with us today fill you with the true spirit of Christmas as we celebrate God's love revealed in Christ!

For Your Information

- **WORSHIP CHECK-IN.** Please take a moment to check in online on the homepage of Hope's website (www.hopelutheranwf.org). A special welcome to guests and visitors today!
- **OFFERINGS & TITHES.** All are invited to make an offering today, as a worshipful expression of thanksgiving to God, and in support of the ministries of Hope Lutheran Church. You may place your gift in the offering plate next to the sanctuary exit doors as you leave. May God bless our offerings and tithes, and bless the ministry which these gifts enable!

This Week's Information

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Devin Murphy

Associate Pastor

Rev. Mike Lutz

Assistant Pastor

Makayla Meyer

Family Program Coordinator

Rob Varner

Director of Worship Arts

The Recipe of Christmas

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024 - 8:30 & 11:00 Services

✠ *Gather* ✠

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & TIME OF GREETING

OPENING CAROL

Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- 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. 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.
- C** Amen.

1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

- 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.

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER: THE CANDLE OF LOVE

- R** *God of mercy and compassion, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to rescue your lost and fallen people.*
- C** **Grant us love, Lord, in all the challenging days of this life. Help us now and always to know your love for us in the person of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.**

(Candle of Love is lit)

- R** *"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

ANTHEM

(8:30AM) "People Look East" - Adult Choir

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Congregation is seated

✠*Service of the Word*✠

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 36

- ¹Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in his heart;
there is no fear of God
before his eyes.
- ²For he flatters himself in his own eyes
that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
- ³The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;
he has ceased to act wisely and do good.
- ⁴He plots trouble while on his bed;
he sets himself in a way that is not good;
he does not reject evil.
- ⁵Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
- ⁶Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O LORD.
- ⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- ⁹For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.
- ¹⁰Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your righteousness to the upright of heart!
- ¹¹Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
- ¹²There the evildoers lie fallen;
they are thrust down, unable to rise.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 3:1–3

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

A Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Congregation is seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come to the front.

Children ages 3 – Grade 2 may leave for Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

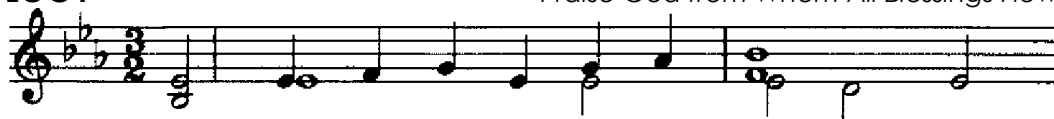
SERMON

"Love is the Higher all of Discipleship" - Pastor Mike Lutz

OFFERING PRAYER & PRAISE

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow



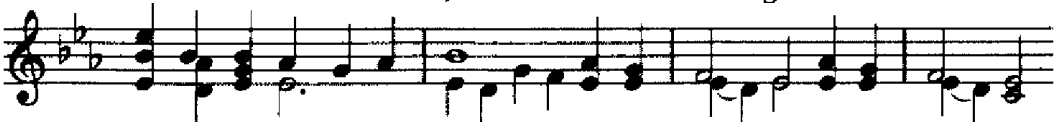
Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise



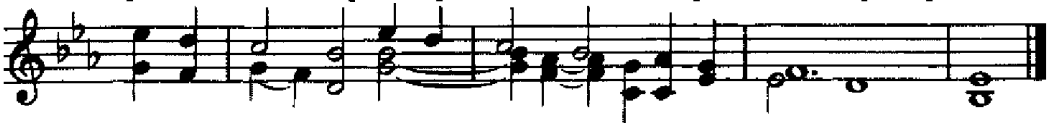
God, all crea-tures here be - low: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise



Je sus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO PRAYER

Come Now O Prince of Peace



1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.



Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.

P Lord, in your mercy...

G Hear our prayer.

✠ *Service of Holy Communion* ✠

COMMUNION INFORMATION

Communion Participation: As Christians of the Lutheran faith, we believe Christ's body and blood are truly present with the bread and wine, offering forgiveness of sins to all who believe in Jesus Christ. We ask those who commune to share this unity of faith in Christ and understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Since the Scripture teaches that we are to examine ourselves before eating of the bread and drinking of the cup (1 Corinthians 11:28), if you are not certain of the meaning of Holy Communion or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, please speak with the Pastor before communing.

Communion and Children: Communion is ordinarily offered at Hope to youth after their first communion classes in the 5th grade. Children and youth who have not been instructed may come to the altar to receive a blessing. Children and youth who have not been instructed should fold their arms over their chest to acknowledge they are receiving the blessing

Communion Distribution Process: Please form two lines in the main center aisle, proceeding to the altar. After you have received communion, you may return to your pew via the side aisles.

White grape juice is provided in the center of the trays. Individual cups may be placed in the baskets provided by the acolyte. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sung to Hark the Herald Angles Sing)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and Earth cannot contain

All the glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high!

Blest is he who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King.

Hallelujahs, glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due!

Be forever, Lord, to you!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- 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."

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.
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.

SHARING OF PEACE

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

- C** And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei (Sung to I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day)

**O Lamb of God, you take away
The sins of all; now hear us pray.
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

COMMUNION CAROLS

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
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!

Congregation is seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



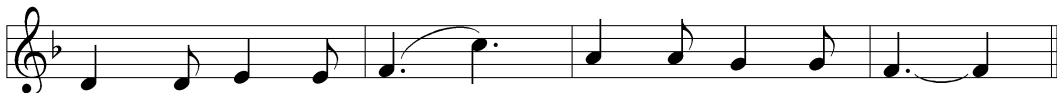
- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Congregation stands

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Song of Thanksgiving (Sung to God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman)

O, thank the Lord and sing his praise,
What he has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
And proudly bear his name
Who leads his thankful people forth
His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

Lord, let your servant go in peace,
Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work
Which for the world you willed:
The glory of your chosen race
As light for all revealed.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

✠ *Sending* ✠

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

DISMISSAL

- P** The worship is ended.
- C** **The service now begins.**
- P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAK. There will be no Sunday School Education on 12/22 or 12/29. Instead, on 12/22, we invite everyone to join us for a Christmas Family Hour in the Children's Center! All are welcome as we come together as a congregation to make ornaments for our Hope Family Tree, in the Narthex—and one to take home for your own tree. Let's celebrate the joy of the season together!

LITTLE BLESSINGS HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE. Little Blessings is requesting your help to replenish their holiday book collection for the classrooms! We're looking for themed books for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Spring, and Winter. Donations can be placed in the donation bin labeled "Little Blessings" in the narthex or brought to the Little Blessings office near the nursery. Thank you for supporting our classrooms! Contact Little Blessings at littleblessings@hopelutheranwf.org

SCAMS. Every so often, members of Hope receive emails that claim to be from one of Hope's pastors, asking for emergency financial help for people in need. Please be aware that the pastors will never send these emails, as the church has emergency funds available. These emails are always the work of scammers and are most definitely not legitimate.

ALTAR FLOWERS. The 2024 Flower Chart is now available. You may sign up to donate flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones or to observe special occasions. Flowers are \$55.00 to be paid online. To register go to hopelutheranwf.org/flowers. Questions? contact bevans@hopelutheranwf.org.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE. Save the date for Hope's Annual Father-Daughter Dance on 2/8! Ticket registration opens on 1/8. Don't miss your chance to join us for a night of fun and cherished memories. Stay tuned for more details and get ready for an unforgettable evening!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION. Preschool Registration for the 2025-2026 school year begins online on Tuesday, 1/21. If you are a member interested in enrolling your child, please contact the Preschool office at 919-453-0388 or preschool@hopelutheranwf.org by 1/10 to ensure we have your email in our system. Registration will be done through an email link. More information can be found at www.hopelutheranwf.org/preschool.

MEN'S DISTRICT GATHERING. Join us from 3/14-16 for the first all-Men's District Gathering at Camp Cheerio in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. This special event will bring together men from Lutheran Churches across Maryland, South Carolina, and beyond. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and growth!

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY. Are you looking for an opportunity to support fellow Christians experiencing loss, life crises, or overwhelming situations? If so, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. We will begin a training class early next year and are seeking several volunteers. The training consists of 50 hours, meeting for three hours once a week, and concludes with a weekend retreat. This is a life-enriching experience for both the care receiver and caregiver. For more information, visit stephenministry.org or contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Andy Barrett (919-349-5599), Jerry Garlington (850-376-0488), Wendi Palozzi (215-880-1813), or Rob Bailey (919-518-6984).

NIGHT TO SHINE VOLUNTEERS. We are thrilled to announce that Hope will once again host the Tim Tebow Foundation's *Night to Shine* on Friday, 2/7. If you've never experienced it, it's a magical night of celebration for our Special Needs Community. Volunteers are needed for various tasks, including:

- Host/Hostess (Buddy with a guest—most needed)
- Food Crew (7th-8th Graders)
- Special Projects (ahead of time)
- Set Up/Decorate on 2/6 (evening) and 2/7 (daytime)
- Clean Up Crew (after the event)

Volunteer registration has started, and guest registration opens on 12/3. Please sign up before 1/1. To register go to hopelutheranwf.org/nts. We are also seeking sponsors to help support the event's expenses. Note: A background check is required for all volunteers. For questions or to sign up, email us at nighttoshine@hopelutheranwf.org.

TRI-AREA MINISTRY is the largest food pantry in the Wake Forest, Youngsville, and Rolesville area, serving 1200+ families monthly. Donations of cereal are especially requested at this time. Bring your donated items to Hope, and drop them in the collection bins in the Gallery area (near the red doors). Items needed are food, personal hygiene products, and paper products.

MLT ANNUAL MEETING. Mark your calendars! The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held on January 26th at 1PM. Additional information pertaining to the agenda and 2025 budget will be sent out prior to the meeting.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES.

Children's Christmas Eve Services (3:30PM & 5:00PM): A fun, interactive service designed for younger children and families, with kid-friendly battery-operated candles. The 5:00PM service will be live-streamed.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (6:30PM): A traditional candlelight service featuring Christmas hymns, special music, and "Silent Night" by candlelight. The 6:30PM service will be live-streamed.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service (8:00PM): This candlelight service will feature Christmas hymns, special music, and "Silent Night" by candlelight. New this year, we will be serving communion at the 8:00PM service. Please note, this service will not be live-streamed.

Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service (11:00PM): A beautiful way to ring in Christmas Day with candlelight, Christmas hymns, and Holy Communion. The Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Brass Ensemble will be singing and playing at this service. This service will be live-streamed.

A PLACE TO BELONG THIS CHRISTMAS. If you have nowhere to go on Christmas Day, come spend it with the Spottiswood family! We'd love to share food, fellowship, and holiday cheer with you. For more details or to let us know you're coming, please contact 818-642-7570. Come celebrate Christmas in a warm, welcoming home!