

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

Vicar Tom Kaye

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2205 Old Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784

Church Office 410-795-6333

HSLC Website--www.hslceldersburgmd.org



We extend the warmest welcome to all worshipping with us today. Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, you haven't been in a while, or you are here regularly; *we are so glad you are here!* If this is your first time with us, we ask that you sign our Friendship Book, so that we might pray with/for you, get to know you better, and check-in with you from time to time.

Holy Communion is open to all. In this church, we preach, teach, and confess that this is the table of Jesus, and it is Jesus who invites you to His table. You need not be a member of this church, or any other church; anyone who desires a deeper walk with Christ is invited. The ushers will direct you to proceed up the center aisle. You are invited to take an empty, individual cup from the silver tray near the baptismal font, and *red wine*, the blood of Christ, will be poured for you at the altar rail. You will also find *red grape juice*, the blood of Christ, in sealed individual cups in that same tray. As you come to the altar rail, you may stand or kneel as you are able, and the minister will place bread, the body of Christ, in your hand. If you are in need of a gluten free host, please let the minister know. If you prefer not to receive the Communion elements, Jesus still invites you into His Holy Communion; at the altar rail you may fold your arms, and the minister will pray with and bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

ADVENT VERSICLES

P: In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: On this bright morning full of love, we remember what God's love looks like:

C: Like all living in security and peace,

P: Like the Mighty One doing great things,

C: Like the lowly being lifted up, and the hungry being filled.

P: On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we light these candles as a sign of the presence of God's love.

C: Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Today we light the candle of love!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: VERSES 1-4.



- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 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. |



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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please rise, in body or spirit.

P: Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God, that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is faithful, merciful, and just, ever-offering grace and love no matter where we find ourselves in our journey of life. Let us pray,

P: Gracious and loving God, we come before you with penitent and hopeful hearts, as we prepare for the Advent of your Son.

(We pause for reflection)

P: God of every age,

C: Source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer.

We come before you in need of healing:

The healing of our bodies and souls,

The healing of our relationships,

The healing of our pride, fear, and apathy.

We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even the restoration of the whole world.

We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world, that you grant us your Holy Spirit to live into the reality that we are a New Creation; freed to serve, love, dream and be, just as Christ calls us.

C: Amen.

P: God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, I declare to you, in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN: *Fling Wide the Door* – LBW (Green) – 32, verses, 1, 2 & 4.

Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

MAGNIFICAT

Congregation sings refrain, Cantor(s) sing all verses, congregation sings refrain once more.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

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."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon 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?**

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 strong for yourself.

¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

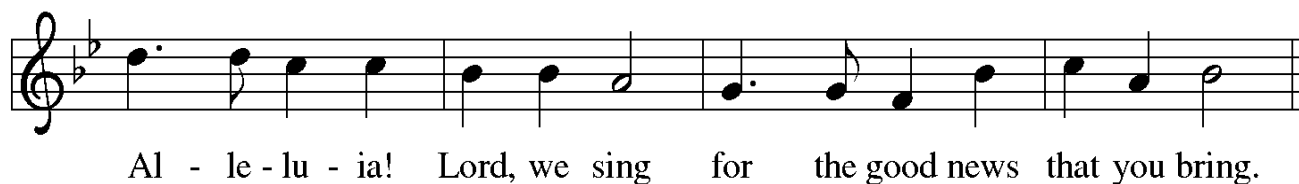
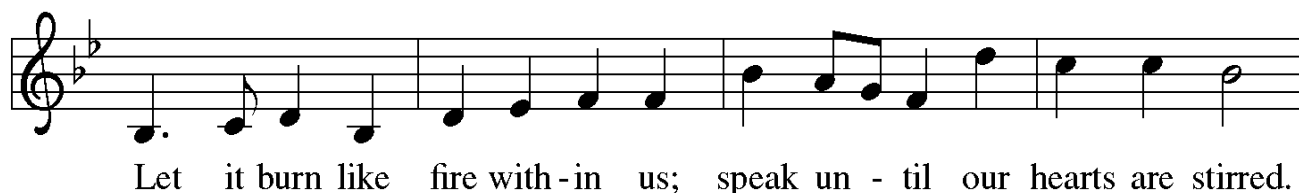
¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

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:

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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

After the sermon, please rise, in body or spirit, as we lift our hearts and voices together in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Savior of the Nation's Come* – LBW (Green) – 28, verses 1-4.

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; show the glo - ry of the Son!
- 2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, but from God's own mys - tic breath,
- 3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
- 4 God the Fa - ther is his source, back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; praise the per - fect Son of God.
fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun when God breathed the Word, his Son.
Might-y God and man in one, ea - ger now his race to run!
down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5 He leaves heaven to return;
trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;
riding out, returning home
as the Savior who has come. | 6 God the Father's precious Son
girds himself in flesh to run
for the trophies of our souls,
longer than this round earth rolls. |
| 7 Shining stable in the night,
breathing vict'ry with your light;
darkness cannot hide your flame,
shining bright as Jesus' name. | |

Text: attr. St. Ambrose, 340–397; tr. composite

Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

Text sts. 3–4 © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

A brief silence.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

Here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, there are many ways to give. The ushers will pass around an offering plate, in which you can place your weekly offering. If you are attending worship online or you simply wish to give online, you may do so by visiting our website, hslceldersburgmd.org/give. We give thanks to God for all offerings of time, talent, and treasure, all of which make it possible to serve God, by serving our neighbors, here in Eldersburg.

OFFERTORY HYMN

C: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You: We are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands. Lord use our lives, they are Yours. We are an offering; we are an offering.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

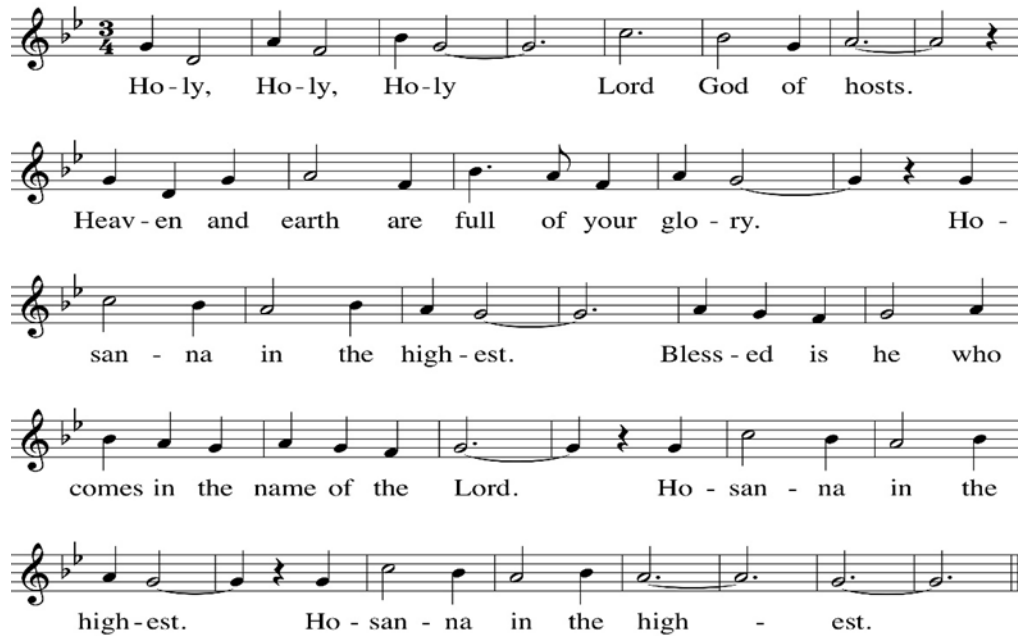
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

P: 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us, in the language of our hearts:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus invites you. Jesus welcomes you. All are invited. All are welcome. Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

After all have communed, please rise, in body or spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless us and keep us in God's grace, from now and until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: 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.

BLESSING

P: You are exactly who God created you to be. Created in Christ Jesus for good works. Created and called holy. Created and called beloved. Now go forth into the world in peace and be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one an evil thing for an evil thing. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show Christ's love to everyone and let the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *O Come O Come Emmanuel – LBW (Green) – 34, verses 1, 3 & 4*

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace, be of good heart!

C: Thanks be to God!

A: Our purpose is to love God,

C: And bring people into a growing relationship with Jesus and his church.

“We all serve as ministers in the mission of the Church.”

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Sunday (12/21) 11:00am – Advent Worship w/Communion

Sunday (12/21) 12:30pm Christmas Play and Party

Wednesday (12/24) Christmas Eve services, 5:00pm (Shepherd of the Glen); 7:30 services (HSLC)

Services online at: HSLC Website--www.hslceldersburgmd.org

Please contact Vicar Tom via email at HSLC.pastor@comcast.net if you would like to meet, have any questions, or for any pastoral emergencies.

Volunteers

	<i>THIS WEEK (12/21/2025)</i>	<i>CHRISTMAS EVE (12/24/2025)</i>
Greeters	Linda L.	Kim N.
Ushers	Abby Pal. Luke F.	Dave L. Mitch K.
Acolyte	Kira L.	Henry K.
Assisting Minister	Laura B.	Megan F.
Communion Assistant	Laura B.	John F.
Lector	Krissy K.	Lily K.
Altar Care	Holly deB.	Linda L.