

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols 2016



To all who are here, welcome to worship on this holy night. We gather to walk with the shepherds, to sing with the angels, to worship at the manger of the Child born as Savior to the world. Visitors, please sign the guest register at the rear of the church and join us for worship again. A transport chair is available for anyone in need. Please ask an usher for assistance.

*On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.*

Lutherans believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God that Christ is fully present among us. Jesus invites everyone to participate in receiving this miraculous presence. If you are unable to receive the bread and/or the wine, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present with you. All are welcome to come to the Table to be fed and nurtured.

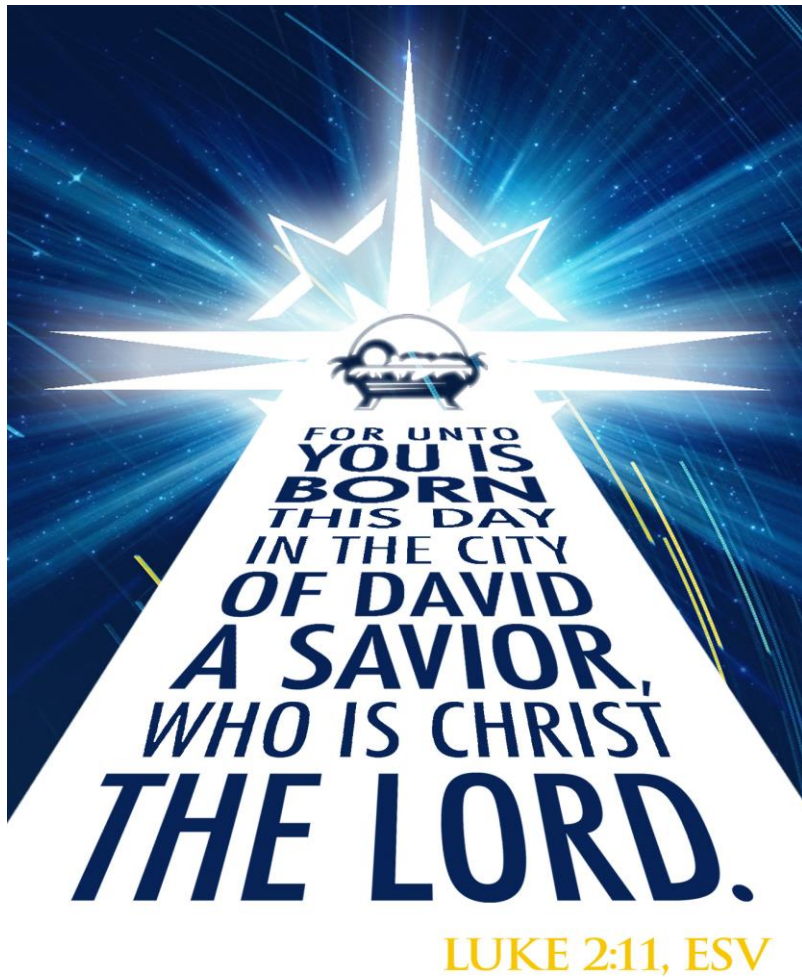
### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*The assembly stands (as you are able)*

#### CHRISTMAS DIALOG

- ☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!
- ☑ He is the Light no darkness can overcome.
- ☐ At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
of Lessons and Carols with  
Holy Communion

December 24, 2106

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pam Illick, Pastor

**C** With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”

**P** In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

**C** With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

**ENTRANCE HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283, verses 1 and 2)**

### GREETING

**P** Today Christ is born:

**C** Alleluia, alleluia!

**P** The grace and compassion 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.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Living god, on this holy night we gather – to stand with the shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever!

**C** Amen

*The assembly is seated.*

**First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 (Kat Dennis)**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and

for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

**First Carol: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267 - verse 1)**

**SECOND READING: Isaiah 9:2–7 (Amy Dennis)**

**L** Let us read responsively the reading from Isaiah:

**L** <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

**C** <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

**L** <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**C** <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

**L** <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**C** <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

☒ He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Second Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279 verse 1)**

**Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (Hailey Sherman)**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[e]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Third Carol: *What Child Is This* (ELW 296 - verse 1)**

**Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (Eric Leaper)**

<sup>18</sup>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 with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son,<sup>[b]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

**Fourth Carol: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)**

**Fifth Reading: Luke 2:1–20 (Pastor Pam)**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Fifth Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270, verse 1)**

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY: DOXOLOGY (TUNE: O TANNENBAUM)**

Copyright 2001 Dale A. Schoening.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
In ev'ry generation.  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Who gives to us salvation.  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Let all creation praise the Lord  
With love and adoration.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** God with us:

**C** We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made – forests and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of grace that you have given – a little child, lying in a manger. Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

**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.

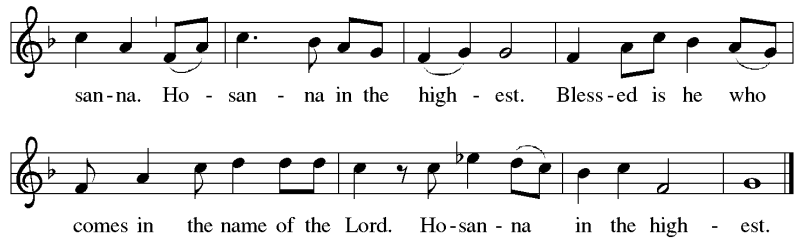
**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

☐ In the night in which he was handed over,  
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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his birth and life among us,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,  
that, held and nourished by you,  
we may live as your children,  
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

☐ Amen

## LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

☐ The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come, eat, and live.

*The assembly is seated.*

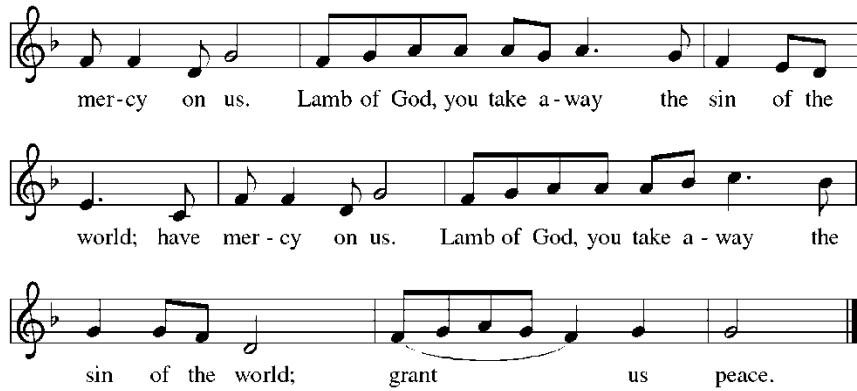
## COMMUNION

- *Communicants will proceed up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. If you wish to receive the wine from the pouring chalice, please pick up an individual cup from the table at the head of the aisle. After receiving the bread from the pastor, proceed to the pouring chalice or the common cup to receive the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*
- *If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come holding your worship bulletin.*
- *If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please indicate your wish to one of the ushers, and the pastor come to you.*

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



**CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNION HYMNS: *Sing verse 1 of each carol while communion is being served:* 269, 275, 276, 278, 282, 288, 289, 290, 300**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**TABLE BLESSING**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**C Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** On the day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1–14**

**P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE PRAYERS**

**A** Glory to God in the highest,

**C and peace to God's people on earth.**

**A** Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

**A** Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**C Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

**A** Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

**C Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

**A** Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

**A** Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

*The minister lights a large candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.*

**REMEMBER: DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE!**

**HYMN OF LIGHT: *Silent Night, Holy Night!***

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**BLESSING**

☩ May Christ, who by his incarnation  
has filled us with grace and truth,  
give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

☩ Amen

*The candles are extinguished.*

**DEPARTURE HYMN: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)**

**DISMISSAL**

☩ Go in peace. Share God's message of love through your words  
and actions with others.

☩ We will. Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**

✠ ✠ ✠

**- SERVING TONIGHT -**

Pastor Pam Illick ..... Presiding Minister  
Earl Duffey ..... Assisting Minister  
Katherine Dennis ..... Reader  
Amy Dennis ..... Reader  
Hailey Sherman ..... Reader  
Eric Leaper ..... Reader  
Hailey Sherman ..... Acolyte  
Katherine Dennis ..... Crucifer  
Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice & Rhonda Rice ..... Musicians  
Ruth Strausbaugh ..... Nursery  
Amy Dennis ..... Usher  
Linda Fleagle ..... Usher  
Judi Rice ..... Usher  
Anita Bingman, Cindy Sherman and Barbara Stefanic ..... Altar Care  
Jon Fleagle ..... Offering Teller

✠ ✠ ✠

**- SERVING DECEMBER 25 -**

Pastor Pam Illick ..... Presiding Minister  
Ruth Strausbaugh ..... Assisting Minister  
June Ecker ..... Communion Assistant  
Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice & Rhonda Rice ..... Musicians  
Marie Seidel ..... Nursery  
Amy Dennis ..... Usher  
Linda Fleagle ..... Usher  
Judi Rice ..... Usher  
Anita Bingman, Cindy Sherman and Barbara Stefanic ..... Altar Care  
Sally Berklite & June Ecker ..... Offering Tellers

## - POINSETTIA DISPLAY -

The poinsettias on display have been placed as follows:

In honor of -

Alexis M. Kramer-Foose by Meemaw and Pappy,  
Sarah M. Foose by mom and dad,  
Jarrett Hall, grandson, by Richard and Sally Berklite,  
Jon and Linda Fleagle, grandparents, by Katherine Dennis and Avery and  
Jocelyn Bumbaugh,  
Katherine Dennis and Avery and Jocelyn Bumbaugh, granddaughters, by  
Linda and Jon Fleagle,  
Katie Elizabeth Lushbaugh and Daniel David Lushbaugh by David and  
Cathy Lushbaugh.

In memory of -

Charles and Eva Baer by John and Judith Baer,  
Blaine and Betty Geesaman and Michael Gordon Foose by Bev and Gordie  
Foose and family,  
Our family's organ donor angel by Bev and Gordie Foose and family,  
The donor of Sarah's new lungs by Erin and Sarah Kramer-Foose,  
Their parents and Charlotte's sister by Adrian and Charlotte Kuhs,  
Donald Fry and Shirley and Marco Perez, parents, by Brad and Shirley  
Sanders,  
Terry Sease by the family,  
All dearly loved family members, especially Terry Sease, by Sherri Kayhoe,  
Norman and Emma Eberly, parents, by Diana Mowen, Barbara Layman  
and Terry Eberly,  
Norman and Emma Eberly, grandparents, by Kira Mowen,  
Loved ones by David, Cathy, Katie and Daniel Lushbaugh,  
Flo and Robert Kepner, Sr., Robert Kepner, Jr, and Vera and Donald  
Fleagle by Linda and Jon Fleagle,  
Bob and Jake Ecker and Calvin and Rhoda Shoop, parents, by John and  
June Ecker,  
Woodrow W. and Marie Shindledecker, Michael Shindledecker, Rodney  
Stoops and Matthew Dixon by their families,  
Paul "Pep" Martin by Jim and Pam Loblely,  
Charles and Elva Martin and Earl and Grace Duffey, parents, by Earl and  
Carolyn Duffey.

*(Note: Those taking poinsettias tonight are asked to inform Carolyn Duffey so she can check off your name on the list.)*

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed in loving memory of Claire and Wayne Stoudt, Frances and Leo Strausbaugh and Karl Licht by Charlie and Ruth Strausbaugh.

The bulletins are provided to the glory of God and in celebration of our Savior's birth by Teresa Papoutsis.

## - THANK YOU -

Our sincere thanks go to the Rev. and Mrs. Ray Shriver for their donation of our beautiful nativity set. The set is given in memory of the Shriver's brothers: Oliver Merchant, Jr., Carlton Shriver, and Gene Merchant.

We thank all those who assisted in decorating the church for the holiday season.



## Christmas Day & New Year's Day

10 AM

Join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with a service of Holy Communion at a special earlier time.



## - SUNDAYS AT TRINITY-

9:30 a.m. - Children's Sunday School and Adult Forum

10:45 a.m. - Worship

*1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Monthly - Holy Communion*

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays - Service of the Word*

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Service of the Word for Healing*



*Pastor Pam and the Congregation  
Council of Trinity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church wish you all the joys  
and blessings of the Christmas season  
now and through-out the year ahead.*



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### – UPCOMING EVENTS –

**Lunch Bunch** goes out on Sundays after worship for lunch (except on Sundays when we have Coffee & Conversation). Join us for our next outing on January 15 at Café del Sol. We invite all to be with us for this time of fellowship as we enjoy a meal together.



We invite all to join us for our **Church Breakfast** at Parlor House Restaurant at 9 a.m. on the third Tuesday each month. There is no need to preregister. Just join us for the fellowship as we enjoy breakfast together.

We invite all to join us for **Dinner at the Pub** at 6 p.m. on the second Friday each month at Monterey Pass Pub and Eatery in downtown Rouzerville.

On **Christmas Day and New Year's Day** we will have a service of Holy Communion at 10 a.m. Please join us for this celebration of the birth of our Savior at a special early time.

### – TELC MISSION WORK FOR NEAR AND FAR –

**Thursday in the Subway** at Walmart is every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00. Pastor Pam is available to anyone who is seeking prayer or someone to talk to. The invitation extends to our people here at TELC to stop by too. Please pray that this ministry will help TELC to take Jesus into the world. These sessions will resume in December when pastor Pam returns.

**Trinity's Encourager Ministry** provides encouragement and outreach to our faith community. If you know of someone who could use a card, phone call, etc., let one of the members of the Evangelism Committee know. Contacts are made for special occasions/accomplishments in our lives such as an anniversary, new baby, baptism, first communion, confirmation, get well, graduation, retirement, sympathy, thinking of you, volunteer, wedding, etc. Members are Earl Duffey, Charlotte Kuhs, Sondra Musser, Judi Rice, and Donna Swauger.

**"New Neighbor Baskets"** are now available for pickup at the church any Sunday morning. All you need to do is pick up the basket, deliver it, and have good conversation with your new neighbor. God is sending us out to do a new thing—help us reach out to our community!

### – STEWARDSHIP –

*Sharing the abundance of God's gifts to us of time, talents and wealth with others*

Donation envelopes for the **Air Conditioning Fund** are available on the windowsill at the rear of the sanctuary.

**New Flower, Bulletin and Candle Sponsor Charts Available:** Are you thinking of a way to honor a loved one's birthday, anniversary, accomplishment, baptismal anniversary, or to just say, "I love you?" Is there a special person whose life you would like to memorialize? Sponsoring flowers, bulletins and/or candles is a great way to do that! Check out the bulletin board in the hallway off the narthex for more information. The charts for 2017 are now posted.

We need **plastic icing tubs** for the distribution of altar flowers after the service. Please place on the counter in the altar room.

Don't forget: Drop off your **Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education**, as well as your all occasion **cards** for St. Jude's' recycled card program, in the appropriate container at the back of our worship area.

### – FAITH FORMATION –

**Children's Sunday School and Adult Forum** meet each Sunday mornings at 9:30. All are welcome.

**Faith Study** meets both evening sessions and at noon. The next topic is John Ortberg's book *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Sessions begin in January on dates to be announced.

**- PRESIDING BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE -**

I remember my home growing up. It was on the west side of Cleveland...I still dream about it. It was a place where I felt safe, where my family was and it was full of wonderful Christmas memories. My senior year of college, my parents moved to the shores of Lake Erie. It's every west sider's dream in Cleveland to get to the lake, and they finally made it. But my home was gone. In fact, I had to find directions to my parents' home for Christmas break.

I still dream about the home where I grew up. I still miss it and can still remember every feature of it. And I realize that all of us have a deep longing for home. At Christmastime, I think it's especially poignant and deep for people. Many of our Christmas carols talk about being home for Christmas and how hard it is when we're not.

Then I remembered that Mary and Joseph were not home for Christmas that first year. They were far from their home, far from their people. They were way down in Bethlehem, far from Nazareth. How disorienting that must have been for them.

But the truth is, Mary and Joseph were exactly at home for Christmas because with them was the Christ child. Jesus is our true home. That's our hope at Christmastime and our hope the year round. We are never far from home because Christ is as near to us as our own breath or our own pulse. So, wherever you find yourself this year, dear church, remember that Jesus is with you, and you are home for Christmas.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Merry Christmas

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- Our Mission -

The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rouzerville, Pennsylvania is to build, strengthen, and increase our faith community to better love and serve God – and the world community – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



- Our Vision -

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.