

Service of Lessons and Carols
December 27, 2015



Merry Christmas! Yes—the Christmas season continues and we welcome you to worship at this festive time of year. God bless us as we join in praise and contemplation. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register at the rear of the nave and please join us for worship again. We have a transport chair available to members and guests when needed. Please ask an usher for assistance



GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able).

GATHERING HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*
(ELW 289)

DIALOGUE

- P** Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
- C** **By day and night he shines for all to see.**
- P** Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
- C** **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
- P** God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
- C** **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
- P** Jesus is the light of the world.
- C** **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
- P** Sing to God a new song!
- C** **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

GREETING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER

☞ Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

☞ Amen.

Assembly is seated.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 (Terry Eberly)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And 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, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to 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 - st. 1 & 4)

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a (Amy Dennis)

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279 - st. 1)

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (Joanne Crider)

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

³⁸Then 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 - st. 1 & 3)

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 Linda Bennett)

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss 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 conceive and bear 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 borne a son; ^[a] and he named him Jesus.

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

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (Katherine Dennis)

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ^[a] ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them

about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Fifth Carol: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275 - st. 1 & 2)

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 (June Ecker)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, ^[a] and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah ^[a] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd ^[a] my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men ^[a] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, ^[a] until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, ^[a] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Sixth Carol: *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (insert)

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14 (Vicar Pam)

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

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

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

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

Seventh Carol: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288 - st. 1 & 3)

The assembly will stand.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

A It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

A In his light, draw all to the manger

C to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

A In his light, draw all to the manger

C to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

A In his light, draw all to the manger

C to sing for joy with the angels.

A In the brightness of his life

C cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

A It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Assembly is seated.

OFFERING

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands.

DOXOLOGY (TUNE: O TANNENBAUM)

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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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Good and loving God,

C we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,

who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.

As you have blessed us with your gifts,

let them be blessing for others.

With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE 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.

BLESSING

Ⓐ Let us bless the Lord.

Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

Ⓐ May we be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

May the triune ✠ God
bless us now and forever.

Ⓒ Amen

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

DISMISSAL

Ⓐ Go in peace. Christ is with you!

Ⓒ We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Worship is ended; our service begins.

† † †



Show Me!

“Words, words, words! I’m so sick of words!” sings Eliza Doolittle in that old musical, *My Fair Lady*, by Lerner and Loewe. “If you’re in love, show me!”

We are surrounded by words in our time, too. We hear words that promise us better health, or the man or woman of our dreams, if we only buy a particular product. We read words on computer screens, in text messages, on billboards, and in magazines that want to sell us things or convince us of things. Perhaps you have heard people in your life say the words “I love you” but not live them out faithfully or well.

We come to worship and there are lots of words here, too—in the worship folder, in the hymns and songs, from the preacher. But rather than selling us something with empty promises, the words in worship are full of *the* Word! The Word made flesh!

God does not make empty promises or speak empty words. When God speaks, worlds are created. When God speaks, life is created in Mary’s womb. The Word made flesh! And this Word lives to show us just how much God does love the world—enough to go to the cross for it. God is in love with the world and shows that love by entering into it fully and completely in order to mend what is broken and make it new.

Jesus comes full of grace and truth to speak the truth about our brokenness, but also to speak the truth about God’s forgiveness for us. And when God speaks, forgiveness is done and new life is created. The Word made flesh dies for us that we might have life and have it abundantly, in this life as well as the next. “Show me!” we cry, and God does! The Word made flesh!

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PRAYER AND SUPPORT



Please keep these people in your prayers: Phyllis Baker, Cookie Beck, Jean Benedict, Lenore Barkdoll, Katie Bondroff, Sarah Foose, Ulysses Jones, Laura Lentz, Jim Miller, Pearl Minnich, Adeline Plaine, LaVon and Marvin Rose, Lucy Rowland, Brian Sease, Marie Seidel, Pastor Ray Shriver.

Special prayers for: The people in Beirut, Baghdad, Paris, and all people around the world who suffer and mourn.

Please let the church office know when the special needs for those on the prayer list are resolved so that we can keep our list updated. See your newsletter for more information about this.

Pastoral Care: Anyone needing pastoral care may contact Vicar Pam at (443) 876-4736 or at pillick@lts.edu

Vicar Pam will be away December 28 through January 3. If you need pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor Dennis Beaver of Evangelical, Waynesboro, 762-9151, or email PDennis@ELCHome.org.

Next Sunday Pastor Richard Seaks will lead our worship. Please be with us as we continue to celebrate the season on the Second Sunday of Christmas.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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



Holiday decorations at the church will be removed on Sunday, January 10 following Coffee & Conversation. Please remain and help us with this task, if you are able

STEWARDSHIP:

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

Flower, Bulletin and Candle Sponsor Charts: 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 lists for 2016 are now posted.**

Creative Christian Ladies is taking a break for the remainder of December. Activities will resume on January 6 at 7 p.m.

FAITH FORMATION:

Youth Sunday School: Available on Sunday morning at 9:30 for children of all ages. Everyone invite a child to come to Sunday School!!

Copies of *Christ in Our Home* for the first quarter of 2016 are available on the table at the rear of the church.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEAR AND FAR:

We continue to collect greeting cards for the **St. Jude's Ranch for Children Recycled Card Program**. Only the front of the card is used and must not contain writing. We cannot accept cards from Hallmark, Disney, and American Greetings. There is a collection box at the back of the nave. We collect all year long. Save your cards.

Bountiful Blessings: This joint ministry with the Rouzerville Church of the Brethren continues throughout the year on the first and third Saturdays of each month starting at 9 a.m. See the back of the nave for a list of needed products. Please note that the program does not collect food items or previously used personal care items.

Two volunteers are needed to assist with Bountiful Blessings on Saturday, January 16, from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Rouzerville Church of the Brethren. If you are willing to help, please let Sondra Musser know.



- December 27-January 2 -

Sunday..... 12:15 p.m. - Lunch Bunch at Café del Sol
Monday..... 4 p.m. - January Newsletter Items Due

- January 3-9 -

Sunday..... 9:30 a.m. - Youth Sunday School & Adult Forum
Sunday..... 10:45 a.m. - Holy Communion
Sunday..... 12:15 a.m. - Lunch Bunch at Keystone Family Restaurant
Monday..... 6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee
Wednesday..... 7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies
Thursday..... 7:00 p.m. - Faith Study



- Our Stewardship -

	Current Fund
Received Last Week	\$1,117
Year to Date	\$55,576
Attendance Last Sunday -42	

**- Current Income/Expenses -
To November 30**

Income	\$50,350
Expenses	\$79,576
Deficit	(\$29,226)



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

- SERVING THIS MORNING -

Ministers The Disciples of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 (1 Peter 2:4-10)

Vicar Pam Illick Presiding Minister
 Linda Bennett Assisting Minister
 Katherine Dennis Crucifer
 Carol Snyder Nursery
 Linda Bennett Altar Care
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice Pianists/Organists
 Joanne Crider Usher
 June Ecker Usher
 Marie Seidel Usher
 Linda Weddle Usher
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder Offering Tellers

- SERVING JANUARY 3 -

The Rev. Richard Seaks Presiding Minister
 Terry Eberly Assisting Minister
 Charles Strausbaugh Lector/Communion Assistant
 Katherine Dennis Crucifer
 Linda Bennett Nursery
 Amy Dennis & Linda Fleagle Altar Care
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice Pianists/Organists
 Joanne Crider Usher
 June Ecker Usher
 Marie Seidel Usher
 Linda Weddle Usher
 Melissa Leaper Youth Sunday School
 Earl Duffey & Joanne Crider Offering Tellers

<p><u>Six Marks of Discipleship</u></p> <p>Daily Prayer Weekly Worship Bible Reading Service Spiritual Friendships Giving</p>

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Like us on Facebook

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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.