

**"HE WILL REIGN...  
AND OF HIS  
KINGDOM  
THERE WILL BE  
NO END."**

**LUKE 1:33, NRSV**

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2017  
Holy Communion

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pam Illick, Pastor



Welcome to all – especially visitors!!! **It is no accident that you are here today!** You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

If you need some help to make your worship with us more accessible, please see an usher for assistance. A transport chair and large print bulletins are available if you have need for them.

*God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

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

*(Communion record cards are available in the pew racks.)*

**GREETINGS** - Take a moment to check in on Facebook! Feel free to share your worship experience via social media, too

**PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION**

**GATHERING**  
*Please stand.*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

### Luke 1:26-37:

A reading from Luke:

**L** <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>[b]</sup> <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>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God."

**A** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

In your Son, Emmanuel,  
you have shown us your light  
and saved us from the power of sin.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Increase our longing for your presence,

that at the celebration of your Son's birth  
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**C Amen.**

*Light four candles.*

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* – 4<sup>th</sup> Verse



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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God of all time,

**C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

**P** Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C 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.*

**\* GATHERING SONG "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (ELW 265)**

**\*GREETING**

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

☞ **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.*

☞ A reading from 2 Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word

with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

☞ The word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" (ELW 251)**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Assembly stands.*)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

☞ The holy gospel according to Matthew..

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah<sup>[a]</sup> 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>[a]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Here I am, Lord” (ELW 574)

*Please stand.*

### \*CREED

**A** With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

### \*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*After each petition the congregation will respond:*

**C** hear our prayer.

*Please be seated.*

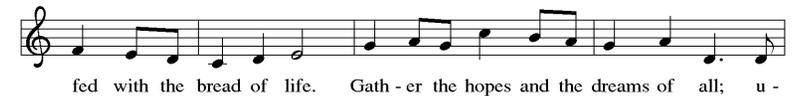
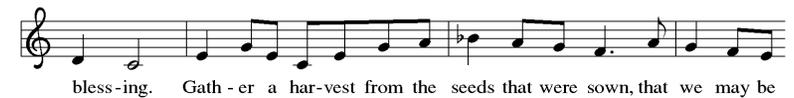
### OFFERING

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

### THANK AND TELL

*(Please stand.)*

### \*OFFERTORY



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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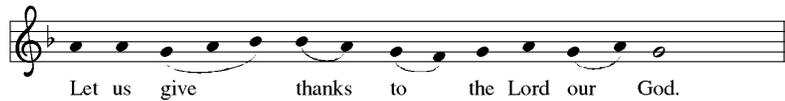
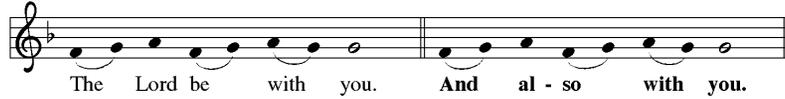
## \*OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

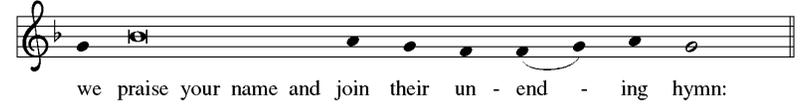
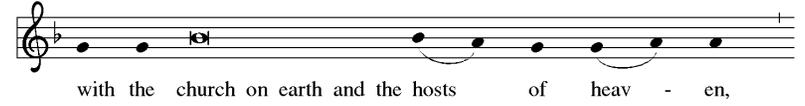
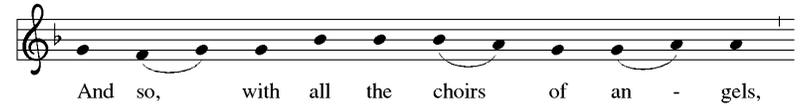
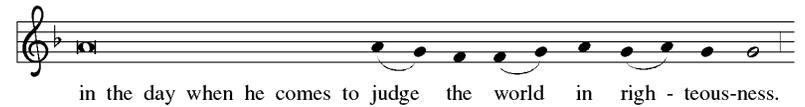
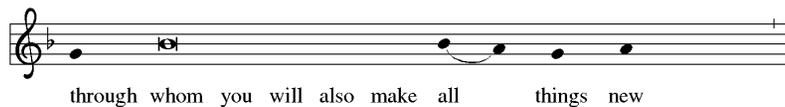
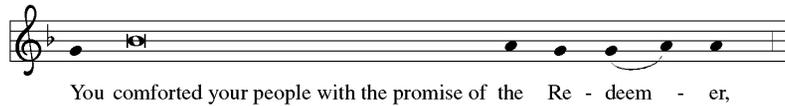
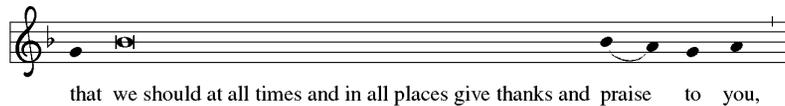
**C** Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

## \*DIALOGUE



## \*PREFACE



## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** 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.

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

☞ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

☞ **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

☞ Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
Share in the feast of salvation.

*Please be seated.*

### COMMUNION

- **To receive communion**, come up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. We offer both common cup and individual cups which are filled from the pouring chalice. Cups are available on the table at the head of the aisle. After receiving the bread, 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**, come forward with your bulletin.
- **If you would like to have communion brought to your seat**, please indicate your wish to one of the ushers, and the pastor will come to you.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond:* Amen.

### COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### \*TABLE BLESSING

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in eternal life.

☞ **Amen.**

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

### SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated.)*

## \*BLESSING

☞ May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path.  
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever

☞ Amen.

\* **SENDING SONG** “*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*” (ELW 257) Verses 1-4

## \*DISMISSAL

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

☞ **We will. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Worship is ended; our service begins.*



### **Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran, Rouzerville:**

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:**

TLC is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed in loving memory of Ann and Elton McNew by Sondra and William Musser.

The floral arrangement is placed to the glory of God and in honor of Kellen Stevens on his birthday by his grandparents Doug and Debbie Stine.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### – PRAYER AND SUPPORT –

**Remember to write the name(s) of persons for whom prayer is needed on the pad in the rear of the church!** The names will be included in the Intercessory Prayers this morning. If you forget to put someone’s name on the list, there is an opportunity to say the name during the prayers.

**Special prayers for:** Nurses, Doctors, and all professionals who provide care for pregnant women and newborn babies

**College Students:** Remember Madi Kreitz in your prayers!

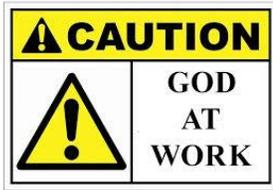
**GenNow Disciples:** Hailey Sherman, Taylor Sherman, Kellan Stevens, Taylor Kuhs, and Darius Kuhs

### – UPCOMING EVENTS –

**NEW YEAR’S EVE FAMILY GAME NIGHT** is December 31 at Pastor Pam and Ed’s home. Come on over beginning at 5:00pm. Soup and sandwiches are for dinner. Bring along your favorite munchie to share and your favorite beverage of any kind! Do you have a game you love to play? Bring it along. Sign up is on the Trinity News Bulletin Board. Make sure you invite a friend to come along.

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

**“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!



**BLESSING BOXES:** The boxes on the outside wall beside the church entrance doors are for reaching out to our community with love and kindness. One box will serve as a library and the other as a pantry. It is time to fill them up!! It's easy! Bring what you can and put your donations in the designated box at the rear of the sanctuary and we'll fill the Blessing Boxes as needed. Folks can take what they need and replace it when and if they can. Examples for donations would be any type of book that will fit in the library box. The pantry box will be for non-perishable foods like: granola bars, cereal, cans of soup, individual rolls of toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, diapers, etc. Anything suitable that will keep well and fit in the box. Let's show people we are a caring congregation.

**MEANDERING MARTIN** is ready for any adventure you'd like to take him on! He is waiting patiently in the narthex. Choose either the paper Martin or the wooden Martin, follow the simple instructions, take along a Martin Luther biography to get to know him better, and show our monk the beauties of God's world. He will not protest.

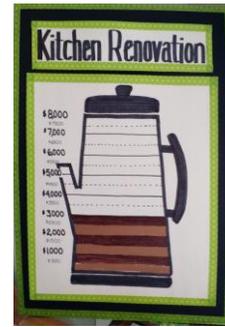
### – FAITH FORMATION –

There will be **no** Adult Forum or children's Sunday School on December 31.

### - STEWARDSHIP –

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

**2018 sponsor charts** for flowers, bulletins and sanctuary lamp candles are available on the Stewardship bulletin board in the hallway off the narthex. The sanctuary lamp candle sponsor spaces are on the altar candle chart.



**Kitchen Renovation Fund:** Help us fill up the pot!! Our goal is \$8,000 for the renovation of the kitchen. Watch the progress on the “coffee pot chart” at the rear of the sanctuary. The current total is approximately \$3,400.

**Building Fund envelopes** are available on the windowsill near the sanctuary entrance. Please use them to make your Kitchen Renovation Donation! Mark your envelope for the **Kitchen**.



*Back to*  
**BASICS**<sup>TM</sup>

**GETTING BACK TO BASICS in 2018:** Trinity began its Redevelopment process with a set of **Guiding Principles** that was written, agreed upon and set at the May 31, 2014 meeting. As is commonly the case with things like this, as time has passed these guiding principles have slid into the corners of our minds and we don't really think about them very often, if at all. In the New Year 2018 we will be “Getting back to basics” as we make and implement a plan for the future of our congregation in the next stages of our Redevelopment. The **Guiding Principles** are “...the values we hold onto no matter what.” (May 31, 2014 minutes of the Redevelopment Team). They are:

- Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.
- We will grow in our faith by praying and studying God's word.
- We will love one another as Christ loves us and welcome all.
- We will help and serve others in our congregation, our community, and the world.
- We will be true to our beliefs and face conflicts with compassion.
- We will strive to bear witness to Christ in our world.



**- December 24-30 -**

Today .....7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service  
 Tuesday.....9:00 p.m. - January Newsletter Items Due

**- December 31-January 6 -**

Sunday ..... 10:45 a.m. - Service of Lessons and Carols  
 Tuesday.....6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee  
 Wednesday .. 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Wednesday in the Subway  
 Wednesday ..... 7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies



**- Our Stewardship -**

	Current Fund
Last Week	\$2,166
Year to Date	\$41,336
Attendance Last Sunday - 39	
Does Not Include E-Giving Offerings	

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

Income	\$147,861
Expenses	\$113.033
Above reflects \$100,000 bequest and e-giving offerings.	

**- SERVING THIS MORNING -**

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

Pastor Pam Illick ..... Presiding Minister  
 Ruth Strausbaugh..... Assisting Minister  
 Amy Dennis..... Lector  
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice ..... Musicians  
 Sherri Kayhoe ..... Usher  
 Carol Snyder ..... Usher  
 Donna Swauger..... Usher  
 Anita Bingman, Cindy Sherman, Barbara Stefanic ..... Altar Care  
 Earl Duffey ..... After-Church Lock-up  
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder ..... Offering Tellers

**- DECEMBER 31 -**

Ruth Strausbaugh..... Worship Leader  
 Teresa Papoutsis..... Assisting Minister  
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice ..... Musicians  
 Richard Berklite ..... Usher  
 Al Bingman..... Usher  
 Adrian Kuhs ..... Usher  
 Melissa Leaper..... Usher  
 Anita Bingman, Cindy Sherman, Barbara Stefanic ..... Altar Care  
 Earl Duffey ..... After-Church Lock-up  
 Marie Seidel & Linda Weddle ..... Offering Tellers

**Six Marks of Discipleship**

Daily Prayer  
 Weekly Worship  
 Bible Reading  
 Service  
 Spiritual Friendships  
 Giving

## Fastest. Pregnancy. Ever.

Usually a human pregnancy lasts nine months—and it's a few days, not a few hours, between our gospels announcing Mary's pregnancy on the fourth Sunday of Advent and the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. But nothing will be impossible with the church calendar! Today, annunciation and delivery touch like folded segments of an accordion, or a wrinkle in time.

Once a child was reading a book about where babies come from. It explained that a human egg was smaller “than the dot at the end of this sentence.” The child stopped reading, caught up in wonder, staring at the dot. How could something invisible be transformed into . . . me? You? Every one of us?

One thing we can say with confidence about each pregnancy, whether it originates the old-fashioned way, is helped along by modern science, or follows from a young woman's perplexing conversation with an angel: we don't know exactly when it starts. After a baby is born we can count backwards and make some guesses, but in the moment we cannot feel precisely when that new life blossoms.

In the darkness, where we can't perceive them, everyday miracles take shape. In Advent night as we long for peace on earth, and in our midwinters of the spirit when hope is far away, we are reminded that new life develops within us before we're consciously aware of it. Even now. Today. For nothing will be impossible with God.

Pondering, we move with Mary from “How can this be?” to “Let it be.” Time wrinkles, a dot expands, and the Word becomes flesh to pitch a tent among us. For the power of the Most High, whisking away the offer of a cedar palace, loves to travel light and takes joy in surprising those who were said to be barren. The Spirit overshadows, and we ourselves become God's house, a moving tabernacle, a holy dwelling—dancing in darkness at the wonder of a child..

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

12043 Old Route 16  
Waynesboro PA  
PO Box 240  
Rouzerville PA 17250-0240  
(717) 762-1228  
[admin@trinityrouzerville.org](mailto:admin@trinityrouzerville.org)

 Like us on Facebook

Pam Illick, Pastor  
850 Fairview Avenue  
Waynesboro PA 17268-2136  
(443) 876-4736  
[pam.illick@gmail.com](mailto:pam.illick@gmail.com)



- 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.