

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE..."



M A T T H E W 5 : 1 6

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2017
Holy Communion**

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pam Illick, Pastor**



Sisters and brothers in Christ, welcome to worship! May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed. 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.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

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

PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

GATHERING

The assembly stands and faces the font (if you are able).

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P** Loving God,

C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of \dagger Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (ELW 656)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
 who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

L A reading from Isaiah.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.]

℣ The word of the Lord.

✎ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands
fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

[¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their
teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

℣ A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come
proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.

²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and
him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in
much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with
plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit

and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a
wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to
perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God
decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age
understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the
Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit
searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human
being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is
within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the
Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts
bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words
not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting
spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's
Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to
understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who
are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no
one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

℣ The word of the Lord.

✎ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Assembly stands.*)



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

☞ The holy gospel according to St. Matthew..

☛ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

☞ The gospel of the Lord.

☛ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The assembly remains seated for the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY *On Eagle's Wings* (ELW 787)

The assembly stands.

CREED

☞ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☛ **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 INTERCESSION

After each petition the congregation will respond:

☛ **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☛ **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.

The assembly is seated.

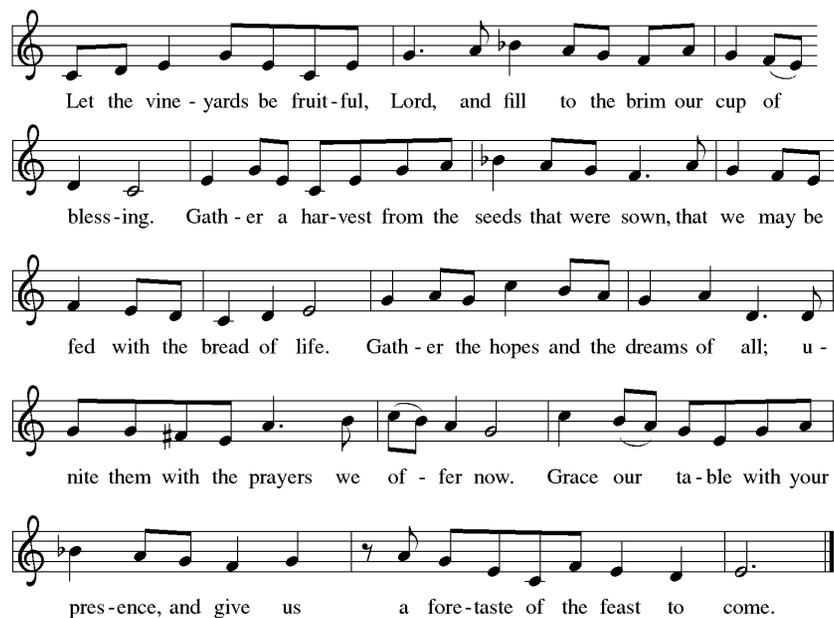
MEAL

OFFERING

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

THANK AND TELL

OFFERTORY *(The assembly stands.)*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

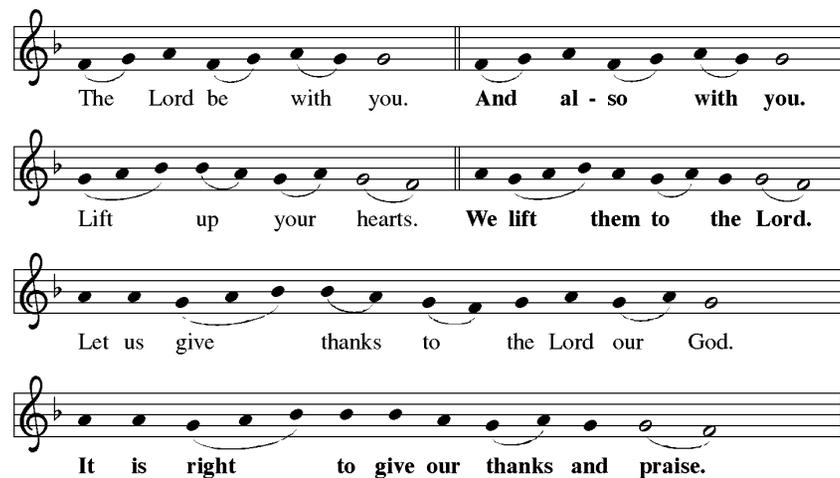
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Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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OFFERING PRAYER

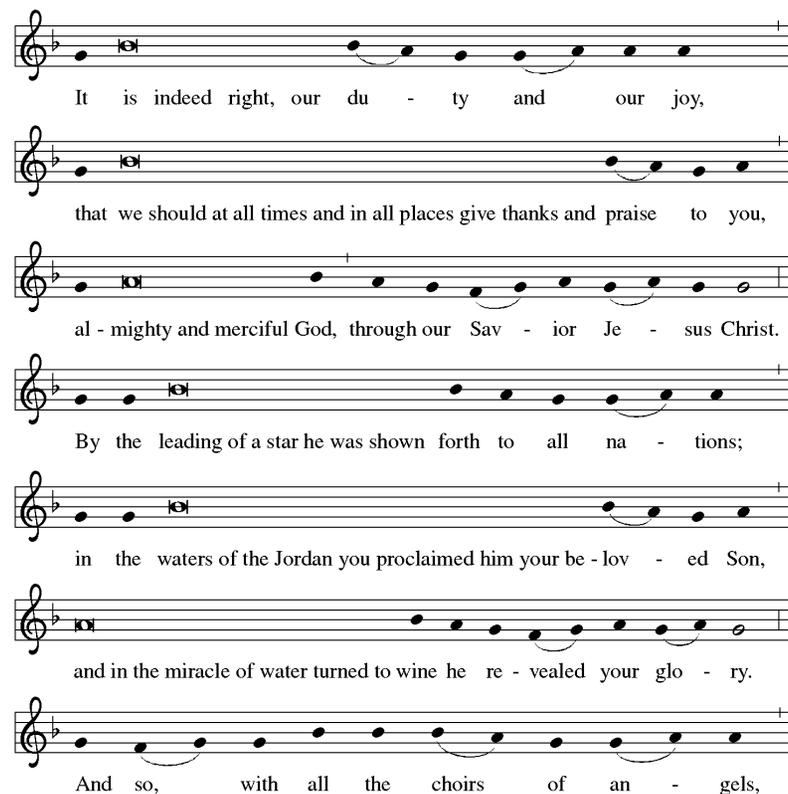
- A** Merciful God,
C receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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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

- P** Blessed are you, O holy God:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to
the nations.
Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

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

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught
us.
- 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 We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

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, come forward with your arms crossed over your chest. 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.

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

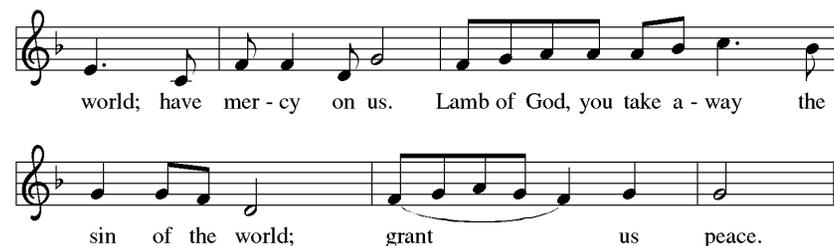
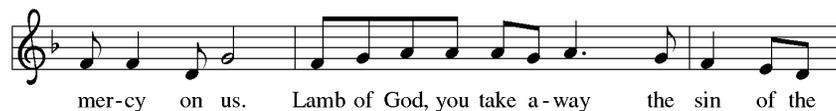


TABLE BLESSING *(The assembly stands.)*

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

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(The assembly is seated.)*

BLESSING *(The assembly stands.)*

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (ELW 632)

DISMISSAL

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

C We will. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Worship is ended: our service begins.



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The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of god and are placed by Sherri Kayhoe in honor the birthdays of Delores Sease (February 5) and Carol Snyder (February 8).



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: Borough, Township and State Road crews who work to keep the roads clear in bad weather.

College Students: Remember Madi Kreitz in your prayers!

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

There will be a **potluck luncheon** after the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 19. A sign-up sheet is on the Trinity News bulletin board in the hallway off the narthex.

Join us for **Parlor Talks** on Thursday, February 9 at Parlor House Restaurant/ Breakfast is at 10 a.m. with discussion on a selected topic at 10:30.

HELP WANTED: Our congregation will be participating in the Greater Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce Community Business Expo on Saturday February 18 from 7-11 a.m. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help plan, set up, staff, and take down for this event. It is a great event for our Redevelopment efforts, and it will take us all to work together to make it happen. Contact Pastor Pam so that the planning can begin! What are your ideas?

-We invite all to join us for **Dinner at Monterey Pass Pub and Eatery** on Friday, February 10 at 6 p.m. It is not necessary to sign up. Just drop in and enjoy the meal and fellowship.

Lunch Bunch goes out on Sundays after worship for lunch (except on Sundays when we have Coffee & Conversation). Join us today at Waynesboro Diner. We invite all to be with us for this time of fellowship as we enjoy a meal together.



We are trying to get together a group to see the **Easter production titled "One Voice"** at Christian Life Assembly in Camp Hill for the 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday April 8 Tickets go very fast so we need to know if we can have enough people to make the journey. The cost is \$16.00 per ticket. If any children aged 5 to 18 want to go the cost would be \$11.00 No one under the age of 5 is permitted. We will car pool to the church from Trinity and stop for supper on the way back. Some in our congregation have been there before and have enjoyed the performances. The performances are professional and just as good as Sight and Sound or any other live show in the area. Please let Judi Rice know if you are interested in going. She will purchase the tickets for our group.

– FAITH FORMATION –

Children's Sunday School - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Room!! Open to all children.

Adult Forum meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the first floor meeting room. Our current topic of discussion is the book *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Join us and find out who they were and what they did.

Faith Study: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*
You are invited to go for a walk. God has invited lots of people throughout time to walk: Moses leading the people out of Egypt, the disciples on the walk to Emmaus, and perhaps the most famous walk of all time: Peter's walk on the water. God continues to call us, just like Peter, to step out in faith and walk on the water. The 6 sessions of this course will help you learn the skills of water-walking: discerning God's call, transcending fear, risking faith, managing failure, and trusting God. Come on! Step out of the boat and join us!!!

The **Tuesday Night Group** will continue with Session 2 on Tuesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. and the **Brown Bag Lunch Group** will continue on Wednesday, February 8 at 1 p.m.

= STEWARDSHIP –

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

Don't forget to 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. We will soon be sending another shipment of cards to St. Jude's.

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.

– 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.

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!

Agnus Day by James Wetstein





- February 5-11 -

Today.....12:15 p.m. - Lunch Bunch at Waynesboro Diner
 Monday.....6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee
 Tuesday.....6:00 p.m. - Daisy Scouts
 Tuesday.....7:00 p.m. - Faith Study
 Wednesday.....1:00 p.m. - Brown Bag Lunch Group
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies
 Thursday.....10:00 a.m. - Parlor Talks at Parlor House Restaurant
 Thursday.....1:30-3:00 p.m. - Thursday in the Subway
 Thursday.....6:30 p.m. - Congregation Council
 Friday.....6:00 p.m. - Dinner at Monterey Pass Pub & Eatery

- February 12-18 -

Sunday.....9:30 a.m. - Children's Sunday School & Adult Forum
 Sunday.....10:45 a.m. - Service of the Word
 Sunday.....12:15 p.m. - Lunch Bunch at Cade del Sol
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies
 Thursday.....1:30-3:00 p.m. - Thursday in the Subway
 Friday.....6:30 - Brownie Scouts



- Our Stewardship -

	Current Fund
Last Week	\$660
Year to Date	\$2,960
Attendance Last Sunday - 31	
Does Not Include E-Giving Offerings	

**- Current Income/Expenses -
To December 31**

Income	\$83,074
Expenses	\$95,526
Deficit	(\$12,452)

- 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
 Teresa Papoutsis.....Lector
 Taylor Sherman Acolyte
 Hailey Sherman Crucifer
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice.....Musicians
 Richard Berklite..... Usher
 Al Bingman Usher
 Adrian Kuhs..... Usher
 Melissa Leaper Usher
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder Altar Care
 Sally Berklite & June Ecker Offering Tellers

- SERVING FEBRUARY 12 -

Pastor Pam Illick Presiding Minister
 Charles StrausbaughAssisting Minister
 Linda BennettLector
 Hailey Sherman Acolyte
 Alexis Kramer-Foose..... Crucifer
 Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice.....Musicians
 Amy Dennis Usher
 Linda Fleagle..... Usher
 Judi Rice..... Usher
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder Altar Care
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder Offering Tellers

Seven Faith Practices

Pray

Study

Worship

Invite

Encourage

Serve

Give

Lights Up on Jesus

When there is a lot happening on stage, theater directors help the audience pay attention to what is important. They might position the supporting characters so they face or point to the star of the scene. Stage lighting also directs attention. Sometimes this is as dramatic as following an actor with a spotlight. Sometimes it is subtle. Stage lights are turned up where the audience should focus and dimmed elsewhere.

“Let your light shine before others,” Jesus says (Matt. 5:16). Those who have read ahead in Matthew might wonder how “Let your light shine” fits with Jesus’ direction to secretly donate (Matt. 6:4), pray (v. 6), and fast (v. 18), so as not to draw attention to yourself.

The rest of Matthew 5:16 provides the explanation. We are to let our light shine “so that [others] may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Who is our light? Jesus. Why do we let our light shine? To help others see and experience God’s saving love. How does the light of Jesus shine in our lives? Through actions that consistently and authentically show our love of God and neighbor.

The baptism liturgy concludes with a welcome. The newly baptized might be presented with a candle lighted from the paschal candle representing the light of Christ. A member of the congregation can then say, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231).

Baptism powers the light of Jesus in us. This light grows as we live into the baptismal covenant: to live and worship in Christian community; to witness to the good news of Christ through word, deed, and service; and to strive for justice and peace in the world.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.