Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Carols and Holy Communion



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

East Berlin, Pennsylvania

December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate the birth of Christ with us tonight! Whether you are a regular worshiper, a first-time guest, a new resident, or just visiting, we're glad you are with us.

We, at Trinity, are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ known while loving and serving God and our neighbors. Together we Worship, Serve and Celebrate! We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and everyone is welcome in this community of faith.

Our church is filled with people from all walks of life and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have many active ministries and programs, including:

- worship Sundays & Wednesdays, both in-person and online
- faith formation opportunities, such as Sunday School for all ages (10:30 am) & Bible study on Mondays at 6:00 pm via Zoom.
- musical programs such as adult and children's choirs & handbells
- youth programs such as Teen Time bible study & activities
- social ministries such as Laundry Love, hosting the Food Pantry each month, and our Sharing Shelf for immediate needs
- mission trips to help others in need, both locally and afar
- fellowship events include an annual church picnic, Penny Carnival, ice cream social, Gingerbread House Workshop, coffee hours, and lots more!
- Please submit your contact info, especially email address, to be included in any future activities to secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org
- YOU **REALLY ARE** WELCOME HERE!

Worship: Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, 10:00a.m.

Office Phone: 717-259-9125 www.TrinityLutheranEB.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:45am – 11:45am, Friday 9am-1pm

Christmas Prelude Recital (Begins at 6:45pm)

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
The First Noel
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear/Silent Night

Johann Pachelbel Neil Harmon Freda Manzullo



Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

This worship service is a very child-friendly, family service and encourages children to worship in their own way as fully as they're able to. You are a child of God, so at any age you can be counted as a kid, especially on Christmas Eve. There will be a few hands-on elements in tonight's worship where the children will be invited forward to participate. Please feel free to join them!

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Violet Chidester

WELCOME

Pastor Susan McCarthy

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN PARADE O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary to receive parade streamers. As the hymn is sung, everyone is invited to participate as the parade makes a figure-8 around the sanctuary in celebration of the arrival of the Christ child.



*APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister greets the congregation, and the congregation responds.

- P The grace of our incarnate Lord, the love of our Creator, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...

Those gathered are invited to join their voices in prayer to the Lord.

C Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.



FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

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

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 (Spoken Responsively)

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!

 The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.
- ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND LESSON - Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" ELW 275
The hymn is sung as a prelude to the Gospel story. Gospel means "good news" and we always sing before hearing it!



- 1 An gels, from the realms of glo ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a bid ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

*HOLY GOSPEL & SERMON: Luke 2:1-20 & Matthew 2:1-12

The readings found here in the bulletin tell the most familiar parts of the Nativity story. Tonight, we'll hear them, not from these printed words, but from the <u>Spark Story Bible</u>, a children's version of these beloved words. Children are invited to come forward for the readings and to share in the telling of the story of Christ's birth by placing the figures of the Nativity Scene.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Saints Luke & Matthew, the 2nd chapters.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Please be seated.

Luke 2:1-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the

heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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 my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.



*HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

ELW 270



- Hark! The her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new born king;
- 2 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Christ, the ev er last ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ teous ness!



mild, peace on earth, and mer - cy God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled." in time be-hold him off-spring of a vir - gin's womb. late come, ris'n with heal - ing in Light and life to all he brings, his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na-tions, rise; Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Mild he lays his glo - ry by, join the tri-umph of the skies; Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty! born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" Em-man - u - el! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our to raise each child of earth. give sec - ond birth. born born to us



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

*RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We come before God with praise and thanks to bring our concerns and seek God's blessing.

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

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

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day, especially (pause for silent prayer).

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the incarnate Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

Please take a moment to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

OFFERING

We give and receive in relationship with God and with one another. Thank you for your gifts to the Body of Christ at Trinity! Your partnership in the gospel is needed and necessary as we work together to fulfill Christ's mission among us. Offering plates are located at both entrances to the worship space. Merry Christmas!

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 290 (Children Sing Chorus – Congregation Sing Verses)

Please stand.

*OFFERTORY CAROL

"What Child Is This?"

ELW 296

The Offertory is sung as the Lord's Table is set.



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



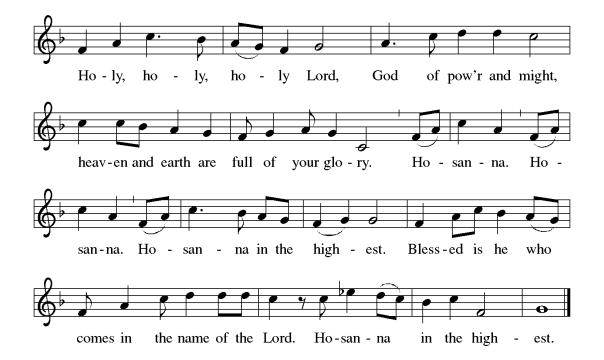
*OFFERING PRAYER

We pray as we make our offerings to God: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

- A Let us pray....
- God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- 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 Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Nativity you have opened our eyes to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding God made visible in Jesus, we may be drawn to love you, too, when 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:



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

This prayer and words tell the ancient story of Christ in the night in which he was handed over... when he shared his very self with his first disciples, in bread and in wine. Please listen in awe as we hear in this proclamation his invitation to us.

P Holy God, Creator of All and Source of life, at the birth of time you brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 by him.

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P 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 honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- C Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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 A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God!

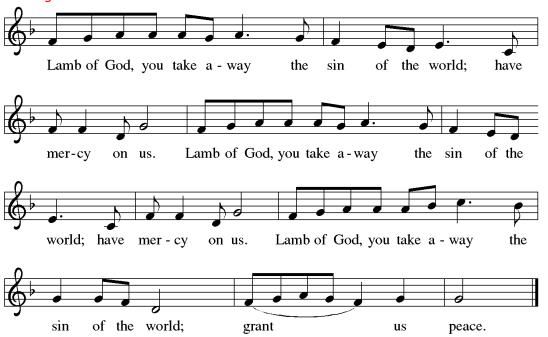
Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We are all invited to the Lord's Table; please make yourself at home. The pastor will offer direction for the distribution of the sacrament. Please note the following elements are available in addition to bread and wine: gluten-free wafers & pre-blessed, sealed wafer and grape juice packages.

COMMUNION HYMNS

The congregation is invited to sing during the distribution of Holy Communion. The hymns begin with:



COMMUNION HYMNS

"Angels We Have Heard on High"	ELW 289
"Away in a Manger"	ELW 277
"In the Bleak Midwinter"	ELW 294

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

A blessing and prayer are offered following the distribution of Holy Communion.

- P The body and blood of our incarnate Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
- C Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

- P The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.
- C Amen.

*CANDLELIGHTING

The sharing of candlelight represents the spread of the Good News of Jesus just as we disciples are called to share the Light of Christ with one another and the world. "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven," we hear in our Baptism service.

Please keep the candles upright to avoid dripping wax. For the smallest among us battery operated candles are available. Please feel free to take your battery candle home as a Christmas gift – the Light of Christ! As the candles are lighted the following scripture will be read responsively.

DIALOGUE – A Responsive Reading from Isaiah Chapter 9.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Please keep your candles lit as we sing together "Silent Night, Holy Night."





*DISMISSAL

A Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Hark the Herald, Angels Sing"

Neil Harmon

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! We hope that you will join us again for worship on Sunday at 9am. Our services may be found on Facebook or on YouTube by searching, "Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin," or check out our website at www.trinitylutheraneb.org. Please complete the visitor form using this QR code or you can submit your contact information to secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org to be invited to all our digital and in-person activities. Merry Christmas!

Bible Study will not be held December 30 but will resume on Monday, January 6.

2025 Offering Envelopes: Please pick up your offering envelopes from the table in the Narthex.

2025 Calendars given to Trinity by Feiser's Funeral Home are available at all the entrances and all around the church. Please take as many as you like!

The 2025 Church Directory will be published and distributed in January. If you have any changes to your address, phone number(s) or email address, please notify Jen in the church office by January 3, 2025.

Church Office Closed Wednesday, December 25 through Friday, December 27.

Tonight's Worship Leadership is offered by our families and will focus on our children's gifts. Thank you to the families participating in our worship!





Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church East Berlin, Pennsylvania

Our Mission: We are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ

known while loving and serving God and neighbors.

Our Vision: To fulfill our mission, we will:

Worship through liturgy, music, prayer & Sacraments;

Teach God's Word and nurture spiritual growth;

Serve and provide for those in need;

Witness to others by sharing the Gospel;

Celebrate with fellowship;

Return with joy what God has given;

Be active in our community and the Church.

Worship, Serve, Celebrate!



Worship: Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

Ministers: The People of Trinity Office Phone: 717-259-9125

www.trinitylutheraneb.org

secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:45am – 11:45am Friday 9am-1pm

Staff

Rev. Susan McCarthy, Pastor	717-778-5548
Dona Lerew, Council President	610-233-6724
Jennifer Guiher, Church Secretary	717-259-9125
Karen Wire, Church Organist	717-873-4795
Sue Clauser, Church Treasurer	717-259-0724
Bonnie Boyer, Prayer Chain Contact	717-259-0879
Siena Potts, A/V Coordinator	717-259-9125