

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Carols and Holy Communion



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

East Berlin, Pennsylvania

December 24, 2024

10:15 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, to include:

- 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, 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 10:00pm)

Trinity Ringers:	<i>“Deck the Halls”</i>	Patricia A. Sanders
	<i>“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”</i>	Martha Lynn Thompson
Flute & Piano Duet:	<i>“I Wonder as I Wander”</i>	Jack Schrade
Adult Choir:	<i>“And the Glory of the Lord”</i>	George Fredrick Handel

**Please stand as you are able.*

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST** *Read by Sherry Brown.*

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Text: Traditional, adapt. Brian T. Johnson. From sundaysandseasons.com.
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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.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray...

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.

²**Sing 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.

⁴**For 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.

⁶**Majesty 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.

⁸**Ascribe 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.

¹⁰**Tell 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.

¹²**Then 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



- 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.

Refrain



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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Flute/Piano Duet

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Joel Raney

(Please see text on the back of the bulletin)

SERMON

Rev. Susan J. McCarthy





1 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!



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



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



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



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

***NICENE CREED**

Let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the
Father. Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

**By the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



***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

The peace of the incarnate Lord be with you always.

And also with you

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

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING *"The Friendly Beasts"* Adult Choir

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 near the front and rear exits of the worship space. Merry Christmas!

Please stand.

*OFFERTORY CAROL

“What Child Is This?” (Verse 3) ELW 296

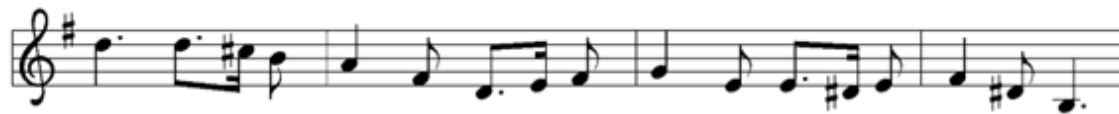
The Offertory is sung as the Lord’s Table is set.



3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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.

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

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 God thanks and praise.

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:



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**

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.

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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

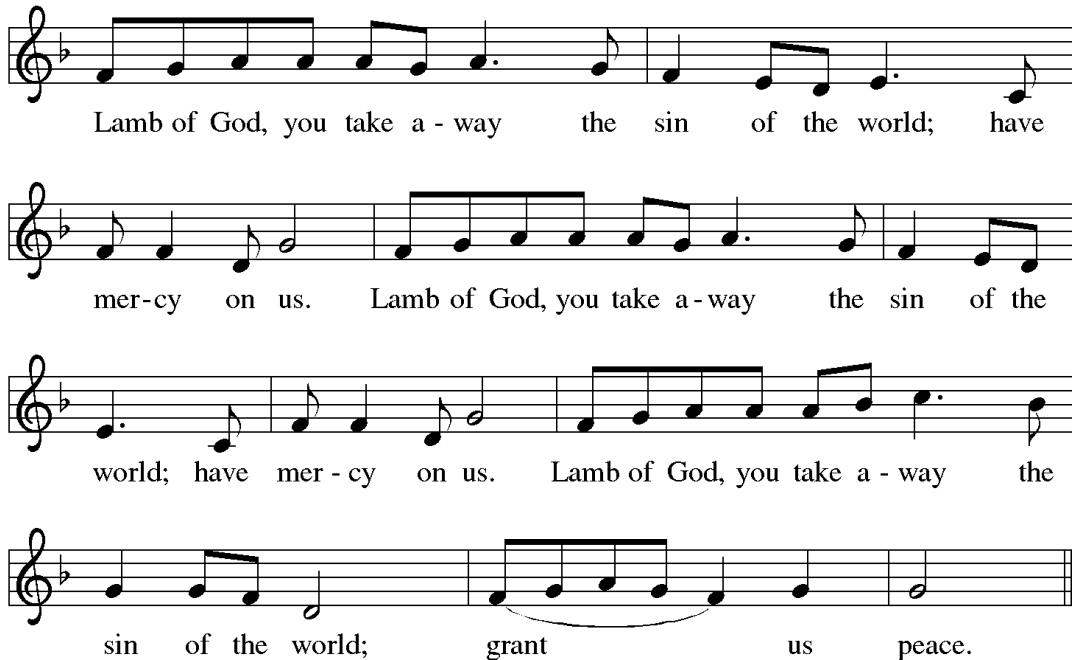
Please be seated.

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:



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

<i>"Go Tell It on the Mountain"</i>	ELW 290
<i>"Away in a Manger"</i>	ELW 277
<i>"O Little Town of Bethlehem"</i>	ELW 279
<i>"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"</i>	ELW 276

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**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**

The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace,
illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.



*LIGHTING OF CANDLES

The sharing of the candlelight represents the spread of the Good News of Jesus 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. As the candles are lighted the following scripture will be read responsively. For the smallest among us, or those who simply prefer, there are battery candles available. Feel free to take your battery candle home as a Christmas gift – the Light of Christ!

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.”



***CLOSING HYMN**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ELW 281

(German Words first sung by Becky Rinehart, Congregation Continues

Verses 1,2,3)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***DISMISSAL**

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

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 (upstairs lobby).

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

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.

Mary Did You Know? – Most of our Christmas Carols are not 100% scripturally accurate but they all invited us to meditate on Christ’s Holy Story. This modern-day carol, featured as an offering, invites us to do the same.

**Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you.**

**Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God?**

Assisting in the Service this evening:

Presiding Minister	<i>Rev. Susan J. McCarthy</i>
Organist & Music Director	<i>Karen Wire</i>
Assisting Minister	<i>Ruthann Bowen</i>
Lector	<i>Sami Kurtz</i>
Hymn Leader	<i>Becky Rinehart</i>
Proclamation	<i>Sherry Brown</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Bob King</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Deb King</i>
Ushers	<i>Mark Boyer, Rick & Anita Madsen</i>
Musicians	<i>Trinity Ringers, Adult Choir Melissa Henry, Mike Brown</i>

**Mary, did you know?
Oo, Mary, did you know?**

**The blind will see
The deaf will hear;
The dead will live again!
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb!**

**Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Is the Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy
Was heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holdin'
Is the Great I Am!**