

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Sunday, December 24, 2017**  
**Nativity of Our Lord**

# Sunday, December 24, 2017

## The Nativity of Our Lord

*On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.*

---

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### GATHERING HYMN: *The First Noel* (ELW 300, verses 1, 2, and 5)

1. The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
5. Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

### 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.

**Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever!**

**Amen.**

### CHOIR ANTHEM (9:00 PM service)

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-6

### CAROL: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283, verses 1 and 3)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## SECOND LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

### CAROL: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (ELW 270, verses 1 and 3)

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”
3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all to all he brings,  
Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

## THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

### CAROL: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

### CAROL: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(refrain)*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *(refrain)*
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(refrain)*

## FIFTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

### CAROL: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275, verses 1 and 4)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
4. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

## SERMON

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As heralds of God's good tidings, let us lift up our voices with strength this day, praying to the One who comforts, restores, and heals.

*A brief silence.*

Let us pray for all leaders and people of the world.

**You have created one human family to live in righteousness and peace. Give us the wisdom to order our common life according to your loving purposes, that your glory may be revealed and all people shall see it together.**

Let us pray for your church.

**You have given us the gift of the Messiah so that your church may be steadfast and true. Give us strength to follow your Son until all have come to repentance and are reconciled by his love.**

Let us pray for those who are sick, who suffer need, who are exiled or in danger.

**You have made us for a holy purpose, to comfort and care for each other. Give us compassion to love our neighbor and patience to care for those in need.**

Let us pray for your creation.

**Your faithfulness springs up from the ground, and your goodness looks down from the sky. Rid us of the laziness and greed that diminish life as you teach us to care for your creation together.**

Let us remember those who have died.

**Ever-living God, one day in your presence is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Make us one with the saints, who have found their eternal home in you.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Let us pray for the peace of this community.

**We pray for peace in this place—for safety in our homes and streets, for the comfort of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.**

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign, when you will bring everlasting peace and renew the face of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN: *What Child Is This* (ELW 296)**

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Good and loving God,  
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,  
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.  
As you have blessed us with your gifts,  
let them be blessing for others.  
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,  
we shout for joy at the coming of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE 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 our thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **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.**

## COMMUNION

*During distribution, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC:

### *I Am So Glad (ELW 271, verses 1, 2, 3, and 5)*

1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
the night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
And angels sang on earth.
2. The little child in Bethlehem,  
He was a king indeed!  
For he came down from heav'n above  
To help a world in need.
3. He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
The Son of God today;  
And still he loves his little ones  
And hears them when they pray.
5. And so I love each Christmas Eve,  
And I love Jesus too;  
And that he loves me ev'ry day  
I know so well is true.

### *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (ELW 282)*

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

### *Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289)*

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*The assembly stands to receive the blessing.*

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

**Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING

*The assisting minister lights a candle from the altar candle then lights the ushers' candles. The ushers will light the candle of the first person in each pew. The assembly is invited to share their light, tipping the unlit candle toward the lit candle, until every candle is lit.*

## SENDING HYMN: *Silent Night* (ELW 281)

1. Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the newborn Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**YEAR-END OFFICE HOURS:** Trinity will have limited office hours between Christmas and New Years as the staff works on some year-end projects and enjoys time with their families. In case of emergency, please contact Pastor Nate.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Trinity will be receiving new members during worship on Sunday, January 21, 2018. If you would like to formally join our community of faith, please talk with Pastor Nate!

**SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL MEETING:** The Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018. There will be a sit down breakfast following worship, with the annual meeting after breakfast. More information to come!

# Serving the Church

**TONIGHT — December 24, 2017, 5:00 pm**

**Lector:** Andrea Toven  
**Ushers:** Jason & Trey Sherwood  
**Greeters:** Mike Nutter  
**Nursery:** **OPEN**  
**Stewards:** Judy Moline  
Diahann Jablin  
**Altar Guild:** Laura Buckner, Marie Frick, and  
Sara Muhsman

**TONIGHT — December 24, 2017, 9:00 pm**

**Lector:** Maia Anderson  
**Ushers:** Dustin & Kelcey Anderson  
**Greeters:** Randy Wilkison  
Mike Smith  
**Nursery:** Marygrace Buckner  
**Stewards:** Judy Moline  
Diahann Jablin  
**Altar Guild:** Laura Buckner, Marie Frick, and  
Sara Muhsman

## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street Laramie, Wyoming 82070

[www.telclaramie.com](http://www.telclaramie.com)

Main Office: (307) 745-4222 telcoffice manager@gmail.com

Pastor Nate's Office: (307) 314-2481 pastornate3421@gmail.com

*Pastor*.....**Pastor Nathan Keith**  
*Office Manager*.....**Andrea Toven**  
*Congregation President*.....**Lindsay Conyers**  
*Organist*..... **Yiheng Chen**  
*Choir Director*.....**Larry Hazlett**  
*Financial Secretary*.....**Bev Gossett**  
*Treasurer*.....**Susan Manown**  
*Youth and Sunday School Director*.....**Becky Dill**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.