

*Sunday, January 3, 2016*  
*Epiphany of Our Lord*  
*Holy Eucharist*



**Matthew 2:1**

**"In the time of King  
Herod, after Jesus  
was born in  
Bethlehem of Judea,  
wise men from the  
East came to  
Jerusalem asking,  
'Where is the child  
who has been born**

**Trinity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

# Sunday, January 3, 2016

## Service of Holy Eucharist

To all who join in worship, we are happy that you are here today!

- We invite all believers in Christ to receive the Sacrament with us by intinction. White grape juice is available in the crystal chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would like us to bring the bread and wine to you, please notify one of the ushers.
- Nursery attendants are available during worship just off the South Lobby area for children ages 5 years and younger. If you arrive and no one is in the nursery, please notify one of the ushers to get the attendant. A changing table is available in the nursery.
- Pew Pads are located at the end of each pew. Please sign in and pass them down to the end of the row so we can note that you attended worship with us today. If you or someone you know would like a visit from one of our staff, please inform Pastor Rachel or Intern Jennifer.

**WELCOME...** We pray your worship time is enriching for your spiritual life.

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### Epiphany of Our Lord:

*Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.*

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the Word made flesh,  
the Lord and giver of life.

**Amen.**

Let us come into the light of Christ,  
confessing our need for God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of peace,  
**we confess that we are not at peace—  
with others or with ourselves.**  
**We bring to you all that tears us apart:  
discord in our families,  
violence in our world,  
our own conflicted hearts.**  
**In your mercy, mend us.**  
**Reconnect us to one another and to you.**  
**Let peace reign over all the earth,  
through the Prince of peace,  
our Savior Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,  
God has given us grace upon grace:  
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,  
love that can heal every broken heart.  
Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:  
in the name of ✝ Jesus our Savior,  
you are free from all your sins.  
Rise, shine, for your light has come.  
**Amen.**

## **EPIPHANY DIALOGUE**

The star shone bright in the Bethlehem sky.  
**We too have a star to guide us.**  
The shepherds ran to see the babe.  
**We too have a star to guide us.**  
The magi knelt at the child's feet.  
**We too have a star to guide us.**  
Christ shines with God's own truth and light.  
**We too have a Star to guide us.**

*The service continues with gathering song.*

**GATHERING HYMN: “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” (ELW 301)**

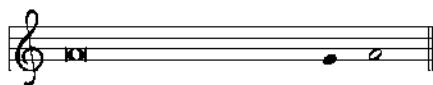
## **GREETING**

God who sent the Light into our world, who shone in the Bethlehem manger, and who spreads  
the Spirit's rays, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

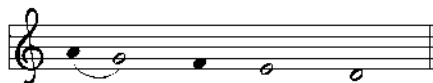


# KYRIE

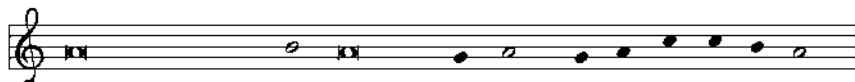
*A Kyrie is sung in dialogue between the presiding minister and the assembly.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



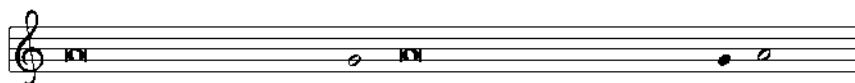
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



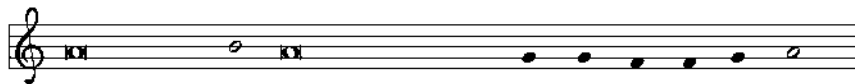
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

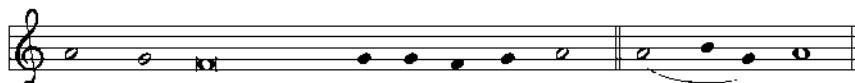


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM HYMN: “*Let Justice Flow like Streams*” (ELW 717)

*The psalm for the day is sung in the words of a hymn.*

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,  
<sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,  
<sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;  
<sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



## GOSPEL: 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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “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.”

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

<sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘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.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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.” <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*All children are welcome to come forward to hear a special message for them.*

## SERMON

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” (ELW 308)

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## APOSTLES CREED

**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

Guided by the star, together with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

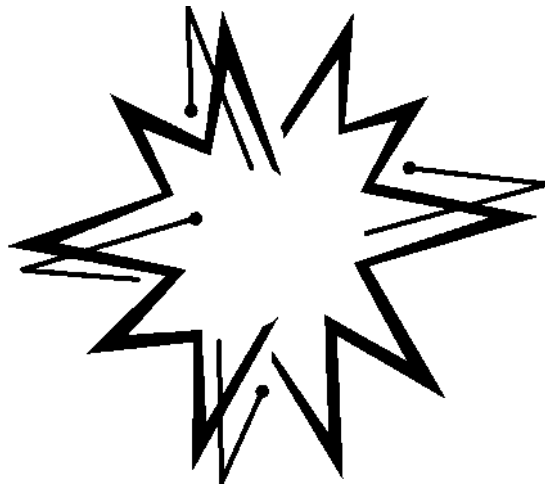
*A brief silence.*

Let us pray for the church throughout the world; for those who proclaim the gospel; for those seeking faith and those looking for hope; for our own congregation at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as other congregations in communities large and small, near and far.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the land and the seas; for all plants and animals; for astronomers and other scientists; for explorers and map makers; for librarians and all who seek to increase and preserve knowledge. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For wise leaders and tireless peacemakers; for those whose lives are threatened by violence; and for those who leave their homelands in search of safety or to provide for their families. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who face prejudice, abuse, or neglect; for those who experience depression; for those yearning for light within dark spaces in their lives; for those who grieve; and for all who are sick, especially...  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



For this assembly; for those who offer their gifts to your service; for those who lead us in worship; for all who reach out to welcome those who are seeking; and for those who guide us in faith. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and those whose lives have inspired us to follow you with joy and hope. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of light, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your radiant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

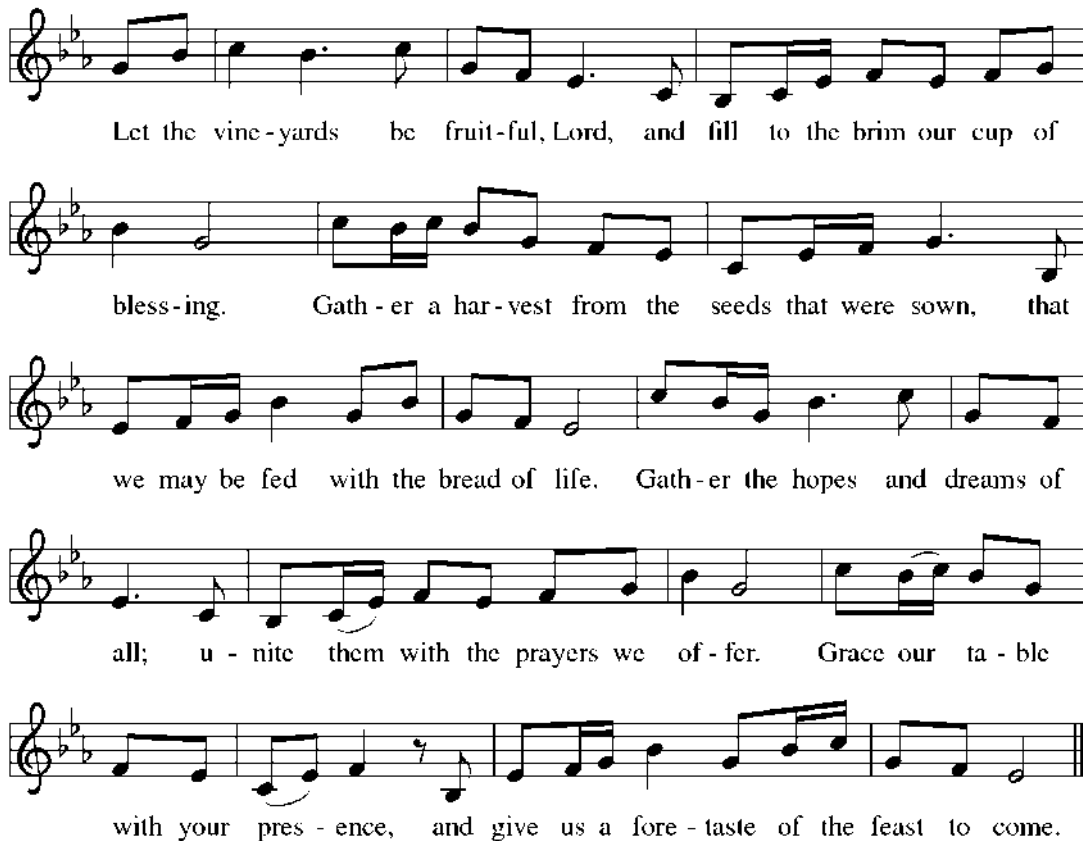
*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

### CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY

*The assembly stands and sings the offertory hymn as the gifts are brought forward.*



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 dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.

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 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.

This musical score is for a hymn in G major (one sharp). It consists of four staves of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: '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

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

This musical score is for a hymn in G major (one sharp). It consists of four staves of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.'

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be your name,**  
    **your kingdom come,**  
    **your will be done,**  
        **on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
    **as we forgive those**  
        **who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**  
    **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
    **and the glory are yours,**  
    **now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The light of Christ came into our world  
and shines in the darkness.  
Come now to feast at Christ's table.

## COMMUNION

*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.

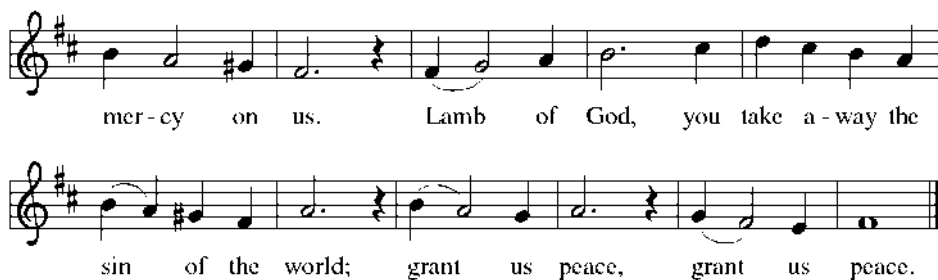
## LAMB OF GOD



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



## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether” (ELW 470)*

## 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.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
that in this bread and cup of Christ’s very life,  
you give us food for our journey.  
As you led the magi by a star,  
as you brought the holy family home again,  
guide us on the way unfolding before us.  
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim  
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord .

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Beloved children of God,  
what came into being in Christ was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
May the light of ✙ Christ, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
shine on you with grace and mercy  
and fill you with joy and peace.

**Amen.**

## PARISH SHARING TIME

*Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

## SENDING HYMN: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (ELW 815)

*The assembly stands.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, guided by the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



# **A WORD ABOUT THE GOSPEL TODAY**

## **Such Strange Gifts**

Often when we picture the wise men coming to visit Jesus, we picture the baby savior lying in the manger with the magi kneeling before him and presenting him with gifts. In truth, the magi didn't arrive until much later when Jesus was likely about two years old. The gifts they brought might seem quite strange. Wouldn't a toddler rather have some small toy, trinket, or warm blanket instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh?

If Mary and Joseph paused to consider the meaning of these gifts, they likely received them with both great honor and great hesitation. Gold represented Jesus' kingship. Incense would have been a traditional gift given to God. Myrrh was used to prepare a body for burial—and thus represented death. Their dear boy, Jesus, was likely still only toddling about, talking a mile a minute, experiencing the typical tantrums and laughter of that age. Now these gifts reminded Mary and Joseph that their boy would face a future unlike any they could possibly have imagined.



Must we ponder the meaning of these gifts of the magi? Can we not instead bask in the thought of the angels and the precious sleeping baby lying in a manger just a little bit longer? We would like to hold on to our own happy and sweet moments in this life a little longer before we have to deal with the realities that come our way—those of illness, grief, or deep disappointments.

God's promise to us remains true in all our days. Although we will know seasons of every kind in this life, there is nothing to fear. Though the way is unknown and sometimes difficult, God is guiding us home.

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## **COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK**

### **Adrian of Canterbury—Saturday, January 9, 2016**

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

# Serving the Church

**TODAY—January 3, 2016**

**Preacher:** Andrea Toven  
**Lector:** 8:00AM Intern Jennifer Michael  
10:30AM Eric Nye  
**Acolyte:** 8:00AM MaryGrace Buckner  
10:30AM Nick Ferris  
**Ushers:** 8:00AM The Jablin Family  
10:30AM Mike Nutter  
Georgia Mitchell  
**Greeters:** 8:00AM Judi  
Weatherwax  
10:30AM Janet Talbot  
Debbe, Lindsay & Lily  
Conyers

**NEXT WEEK—January 10, 2016**

**Preacher:** Pastor Rachel Larson  
**Assistant:** Intern Jennifer Michael  
**Lector:** 8:00AM Laura Buckner  
10:30AM Terri Rittenburg  
**Acolyte:** 8:00AM Maddie  
Jablin  
10:30AM Kent Henry, Jr.  
**Ushers:** 8:00AM Mark  
Rehwaldt  
10:30AM Jennie Lawrence  
Barb Rouse  
Helen Sussenguth  
**Greeters:** 8:00AM Den'ja &  
Sara Pommarane

**Stewards:** Margot Birkholz & Lindsay Conyers

**Altar Guild:** Debbe & Lindsay Conyers

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## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 82070  
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: [telc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:telc@qwestoffice.net)

Pastor..... Rachel Larson  
Intern ..... Jennifer Michael  
Office Secretary..... James Greening  
Congregation President ..... Andrea Toven  
Organist ..... Meng Xu  
Choir Director..... Larry Hazlett



*This is Christ's church...*

*There is a place for you here.*