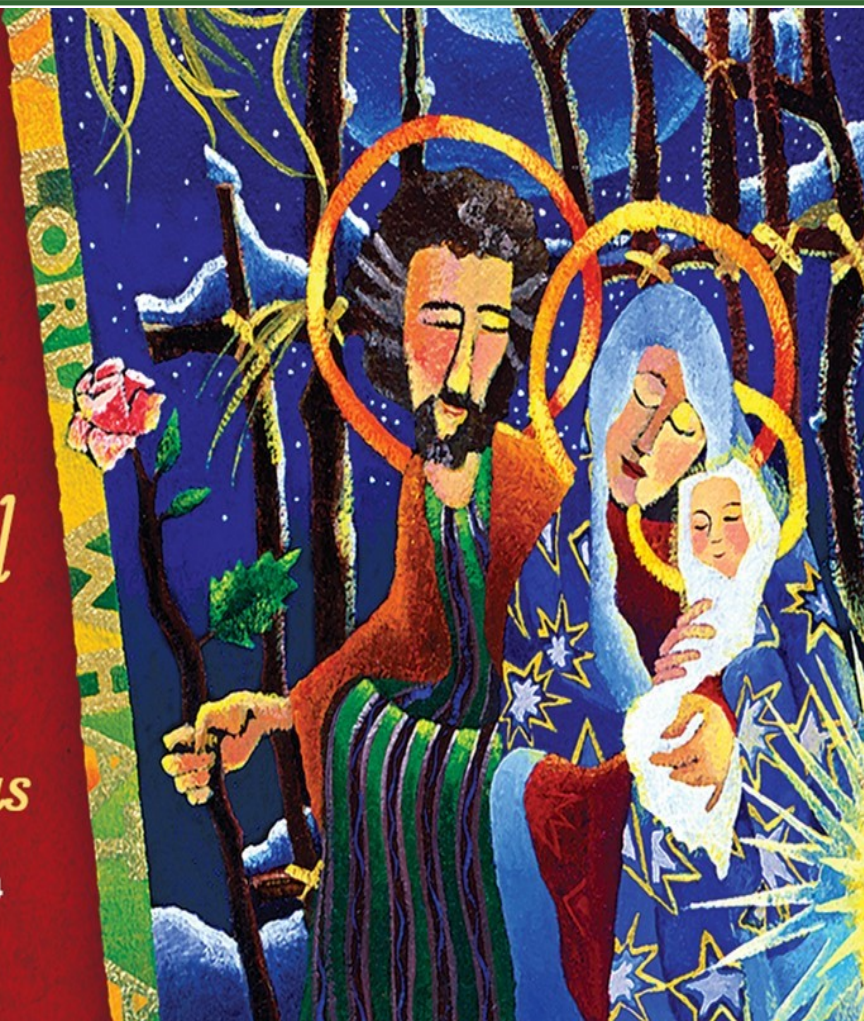


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*The
Word
became
flesh and
lived
among us*

JOHN 1:14



*Sunday, December 25, 2016
Christmas Day*

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Service of Word & Prayer—WOV

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

- We invite all believers in Christ to receive the Sacrament with us. White grape juice is available in the glass 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 the Pastor.
- Prayer request cards are in the pew racks. Please hand to an usher during the hymn following the sermon.

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

Nativity of Our Lord:

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” (ELW 276)

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.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98

The psalm for the day is spoken.

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

A reading from Hebrews.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

The gospel is announced.

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

The Holy Gospel according to John, the First chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” (ELW 286)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.
Amen

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another,
live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

After the offering is received, the assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYERS

The prayers are read.

Rejoicing in the good news of Christ's birth and dwelling in hope, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you raise up leaders throughout the church to proclaim your word of hope. Unite the church through the good news of salvation, so that all will know and experience your glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you created mountains and hills, seas and rivers, and all creatures. Reveal to us the goodness of all you have made so that we live wisely with these your gifts.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you desire that all people live in peace. Guide all in positions of authority to lead with equity, and give courage to advocates who speak for the voiceless. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you sent your Son to be our physician and remedy. Strengthen medical professionals and counselors to care for the sick and grieving, especially for Pastor Rachel Larson; Dan Groathouse; Shirley Heggie; Linda Anderson; Lindsey Meyer; Eleanore Barrett; the family of Norma Deibert; and the family of Rodney Frisard; so that all people experience healing and consolation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you gather us together in community, blessing us with friends and family. Make yourself known to all who participate in worship today, and send us forth to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, you show your love and faithfulness in every generation. Through the witness of our ancestors in the faith, you have shown us how to testify to your grace and truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (ELW 290)

The assembly stands.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Gospel Message

Advertisers regularly try to convince us that we should buy the newest gadgets on the market, especially those featuring the most recent advances in digital technology. We are told that they will transform our lives.

This is partly true. Recent innovations have indeed changed our ways of interacting: we can now make phone calls from almost anywhere on the planet, send text and picture messages in an instant, have live video conversations, and express ourselves with a seemingly limitless choice of apps and social media platforms. Our world has become faster, more convenient, and much, much smaller.

And yet, we know that there is no substitute for face-to-face, in-the-flesh relationship. Seeing a loved one's face on a screen may be a temporary comfort, but we still long to be reunited in person. In the end, nothing beats the real thing.

The same is true with God. We need the real thing. Trapped in sin, fear, and bitterness, it is not enough for us to merely read about God in books or talk about God in the abstract or try on our own to be a good person. We need to meet God face to face and in the flesh! That is why God has come to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate today. Touching, healing, and living with ordinary people like us, Jesus freed them and us from captivity to sin, death, fear, and oppression.

Christ's transformative presence continues in the community assembled for worship in his name. In the hearing of the word, in the water of baptism, in the bread and cup of communion, and in sharing our lives with one another, God in Christ is really, physically present with us. This cannot be bought, sold, or controlled. This can only be received as a free gift. And for this gift, there is no substitute.

Commemorations for the Week

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Monday, December 26, 2016

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist Tuesday, December 27, 2016

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

Trinity This Week

Sunday, Dec. 25

9:00AM

Worship Service

10:15AM

Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School

Monday, Dec. 26 - 30

Church Office Closed—Secretary James on Vacation

Wednesday, Dec. 28

All Activities Cancelled In Celebration of Christmas/New Years

BIRTHDAYS! Mari Martinez (12/25), Carolyn Hazlett (12/29), Linda Anderson (12/31), and Lena Wright (12/31).

PLEASE REACH OUT TO OUR SHUT-INS Our shut-in members would love to hear from you, so please feel free to send them a letter or stop in for a visit. They are: Ed Dolan, Joan Dana, Bob Thymian, Jane Kidwell, Addie Hopper, and Daniel Travsky.

OUR SECRETARY WILL BE ON VACATION Secretary James would like everyone to know that he will be on vacation this holiday season. He will be leaving for Ohio to join his family for Christmas on December 19th and will be returning to the office on January 3rd. Also, the January Newsletter will be released on January 5th due to James' vacation.

YOUTH GROUP STARTING Becky Dill and Laura Buckner are starting a Youth Group here at Trinity. If you are interested in participating or helping out, please let Becky or Laura know.

WEE! COMES TO A CLOSE WEE! Wednesday nights' season ended on December 14th. The program was a great success and huge thanks goes out to Judy Moline, Becky Dill, and everyone who helped and attended. Once a pastor has been chosen for Trinity, WEE! may make a come back, so be on the look out in the near future!



Texts for Next Week:

First Reading—Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm—Psalm 8

Second Reading—Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading—Luke 2:15-21

Be sure to join us for worship on January 1st, 2017 at 9:00am! It's the best resolution you can make for 2017!

2017 Offering envelopes are now available on the table in the North Lobby of the Church! If you did not use envelopes in 2016 or you gave online, envelopes were not provided to you; however, if you need some, just let Parish Secretary James know and he will get you some right away! We thank all of you for your kindness, generosity, and for being a member in the Trinity family!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 29th, 2017, right after 9:00am worship service. Breakfast will be provided, and we have a lot of great things to cover, like Constitutional Revisions, the 2017 Budget, and determining what Trinity's core values are! We can't do this without you, so please plan on joining us if at all possible!



Serving the Church

THIS WEEK—December 25, 2016

Preacher: Ms. Andrea Toven
Lector: 9:00AM Shane Toven

Acolyte: 9:00AM OPEN

Ushers: 9:00AM OPEN

Greeters: 9:00AM OPEN

Nursery: 9:00AM OPEN

NEXT WEEK—January 1, 2016

Preacher: Ms. Andrea Toven
Lector: 9:00AM Debbe Conyers

Acolyte: 9:00AM Lauren Frick

Ushers: 9:00AM Jennie Lawrence & Mark Rehwaldt

Greeters: 9:00AM Tracy Bennett & Betty Carstens

Nursery: 9:00AM MaryGrace Buckner

Stewards: Judy Moline & Diahann Jablin

Altar Guild: Debbe & Lindsay Conyers

Coffee Fellowship: Andrea & Shane Toven

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Rachel Larson
Parish Secretary James Greening
Congregation President..... Stephen Boss
Organist..... Meng Xu
Choir Director..... Larry Hazlett
Financial Secretary..... Bev Gossett
Treasurer..... Susan Manown



This is Christ's church...

There is a place for you here.

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