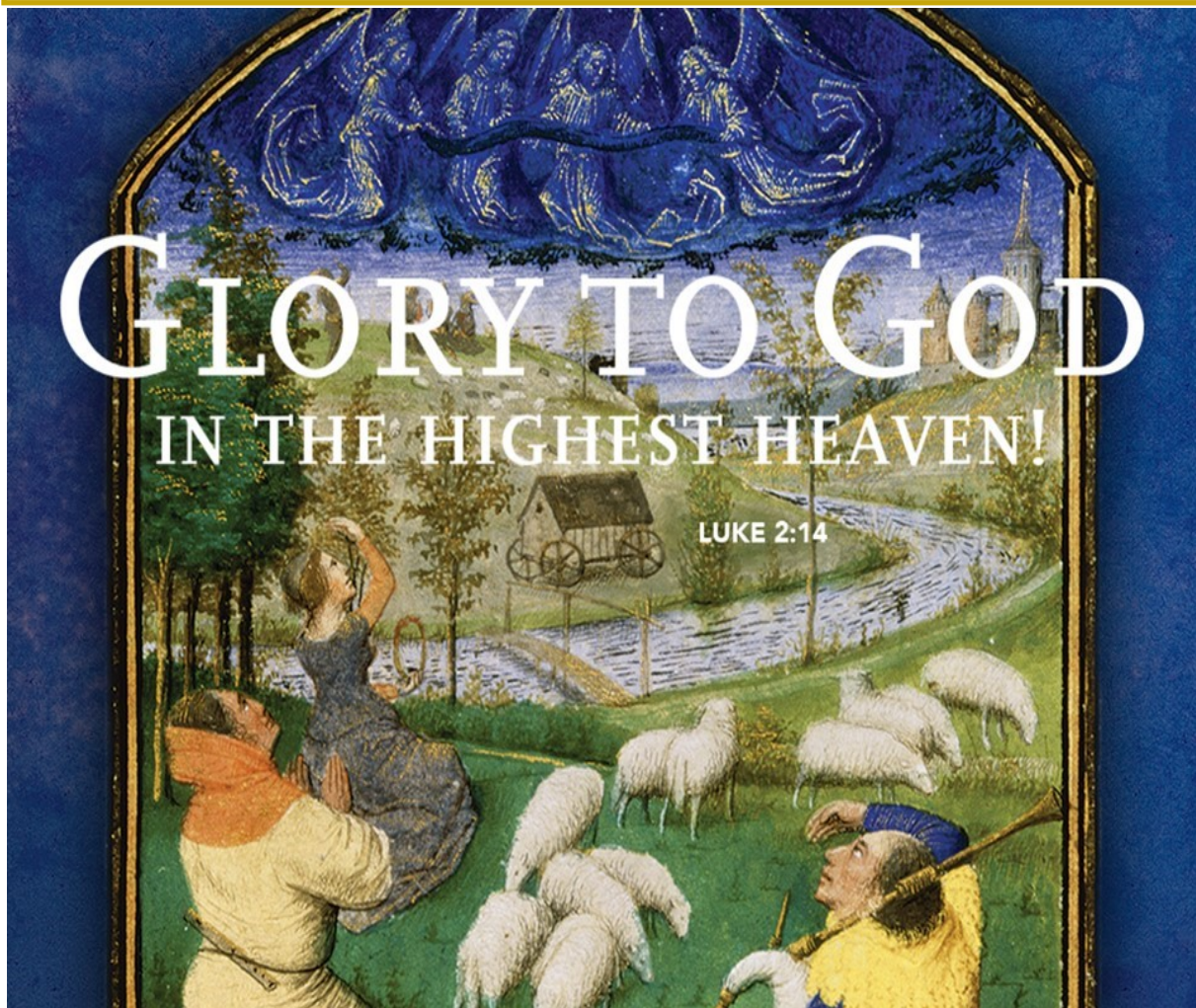


TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2016
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Service of Candlelight and Holy Eucharist

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

- We invite all believers in Christ to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. White grape juice is available in the center glasses of the tray. 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.

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

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.

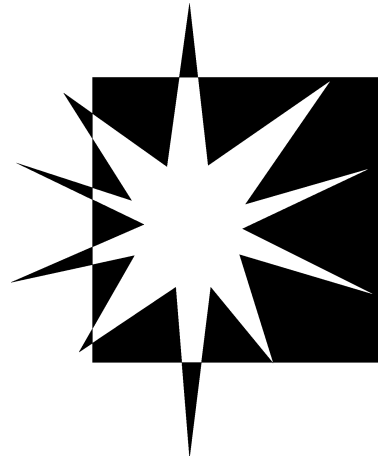
PRELUDE

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (ELW 283)



CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”

In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* (ELW 270)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(A brief silence)

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 only 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 LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

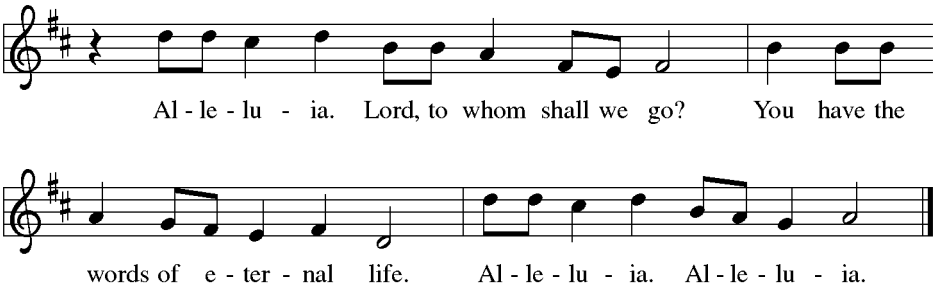
¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, 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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“All Earth is Hopeful” (ELW 266)



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace,
Hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love,
Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our 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

The assembly sings the offertory hymn as the gifts are gathered.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY: "What Child Is This" (ELW 296)

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

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



PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior.**

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“I Am So Glad” (ELW 271)

“Away in the Manger” (ELW 277)

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.

Let us pray.

**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.

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.

HYMN: “*Silent Night, Holy Night*” (ELW 281)

BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the newborn Savior.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



A WORD ABOUT THE GOSPEL TODAY

Lift Every Voice and Sing

On this day, everything begins to change. A holy seed has been sown into the soil of human history, and the time has come for it to sprout, breaking through the earth as its shape and form appears. That seed is the Christ child, Son of God, son of Mary, and brother to us all.

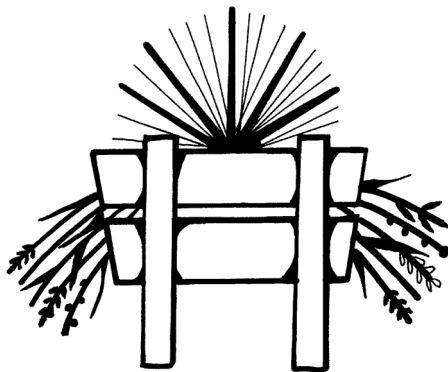
On this day, history bends in submission to the will of God. While the people under the authority of Emperor Augustus register as subjects of Rome, the God who created the heavens and the earth announces the reign of Christ, who will establish a new kind of kingdom and wield a new kind of power. He is the firstborn of a new creation, and he will bring salvation and light and life to all who put their trust in him.

As the angels of God begin to sing praises, we realize that the music of this great choir is incomplete without the voices of the church. This is why, on this day, the whole people of God in Christ Jesus will come together and lift every voice and sing. We will break bread together and drink wine together as we sing. We will share signs of peace and gifts of friendship and love as we sing. We will travel by foot and by car and by air—and reach out by means of the technologies available to us—and we will embrace strangers and loved ones near and far—and the choir will grow as we sing. The children will sing. The elders will sing. The whole people of God will come together with many languages and musical styles, with instruments and dancing, holding candles, reciting prayers, eyes alive with laughter and softened by tears—and we will sing. Even heaven and nature will sing with us, because Christ the Savior is born. On this day, everything begins to change.

COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen—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.



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

No activities due to Christmas/New Years



OUR SECRETARY IS ON VACATION Secretary James would like everyone to know that he will be on vacation this holiday season. He left 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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE 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!

2017 ANNUAL MEETING 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

TODAY—December 24, 2016

Preacher:		Ms. Andrea Toven
Lector:	5:00PM	Lindsay Conyers
	9:00PM	Judi Weatherwax
Acolyte:	5:00PM	Rylie Heggie
	9:00PM	Rebecca Lyford
Ushers:	5:00PM	The Buckner Family
	9:00PM	Diane Fiedler & Mike Smith
Greeters:	5:00PM	OPEN
	9:00PM	The Sherwoods & The Muhsmans
Nursery:	5:00PM	OPEN
	9:00PM	Kelcey Anderson

Stewards: Jody Moline & Diahann Jablin

Altar Guild: Debbe & Lindsay Conyers

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 82070

(307) 745-4222 E-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net

Website: www.telclaramie.com

Pastor **Rachel Larson**
Office Secretary.....**James Greening**
Congregation President**Stephen Boss**
Organist.....**Meng Xu**
Choir Director.....**Larry Hazlett**



This is Christ's church...

There is a place for you here.