

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

Everything you need for worship is in this bulletin.

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All who trust that Christ is present in Holy Communion are invited to receive Him with us today.

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Please silence your cell phone.

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Children are always welcome in our worship! Classroom 4 in the Annex has space for nursing, changing, or a sensory break, if necessary.

+ + +

Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



At Trinity, we welcome all LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:30 PM DECEMBER 24, 2024 MUSICAL PRELUDE AT 10:00 PM

The Trinity Choir

Hodie, Christus natus est

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie Salvator apparuit: hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli: hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluya. Today is Christ born; today the Savior has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice; today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

From a Christmas antiphon

Tomas Luis de Victoria

Ed. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

O Magnum Mysterium

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio! beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia. O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament that animals shouldsee the new-born Lord lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

Healey Willan

Into this world this day did come Jesus Christ both God and man, Lord and servant in one person, born of the blessed Virgin Mary.

Refrain: I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity. I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity.

He that was rich, without a need appeared in this world in right poor weed to make us that were poor indeed, rich without any need truly. **Refrain**

A stable was his chamber, a crib was his bed, He had not a pillow under his head; With maiden's milk that babe was fed,

In poor clothes was wrapped the Lord Almighty. Refrain

A noble lesson here is us taught, to set all worldly riches at naught, but pray that we may be thither brought where riches is everlastingly. **Refrain**

16th century

The Trinity Ringers

Ding Dong! Merrily on High I Wonder as I Wander arr. Lloyd Larson

Anne Krentz Organ

John Jacob Niles/arr. Peggy Bettcher

The Trinity Ringers Quartet

Noël Nouvelet (Sing We Now of Christmas)

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz - piano

What Child Is This

What Sweeter Music

arr. Jim Brickman

Julianne Michalik Maggio

The Trinity Choir

John Rutter

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz - organ

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day, that sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn, thus, on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven, and the under-earth.
We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns all the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart. Which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour, who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly king?

Lyrics by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

+ + +

PROCLAMATION

This Holy Night

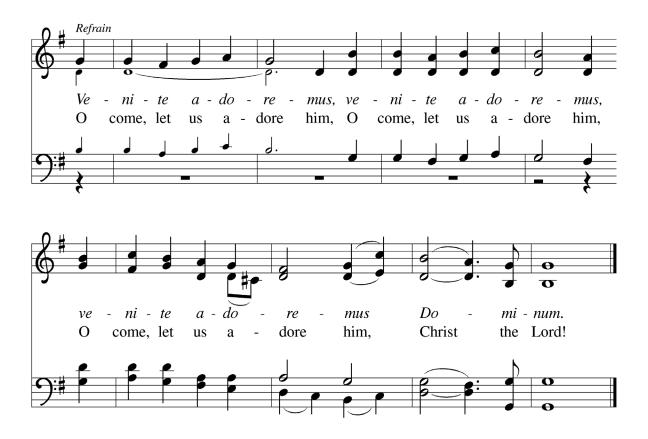
Scott Weidler

Ben Hoover, cantor Hannah Long and Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz, handbells

Please stand in body or spirit and face the back of the church.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL - ELW 283 - O Come, All Ye Faithful





Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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.**

FIRST READING: 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!

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

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

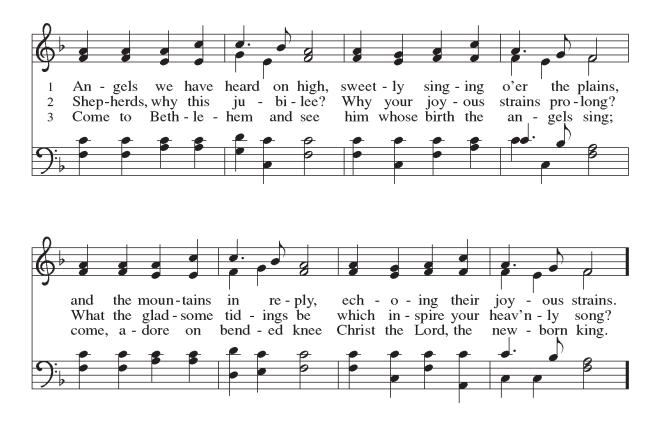
The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

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

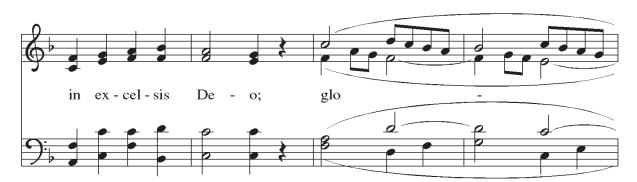
Please stand in body or spirit, following the cross, to face the reader as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

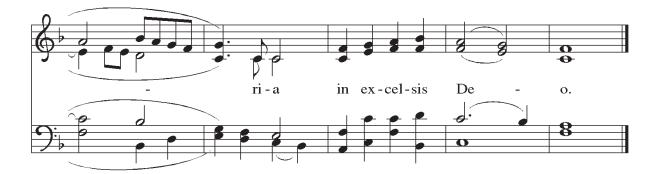
PROCESSIONAL CAROL - ELW 289 - Angels We Have Heard on High

All join in singing stanzas 1 & 2 of ELW 289 - Angels We Have Heard on High









Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL - Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the gospel is read:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All sing stanza 3 of Angels We Have Heard on High. Be seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW 282 - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and for all of God's creation.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

After the final petition:

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please greet one another and then be seated.

OFFERTORY

Jesus, Springing

Bob Chilcott

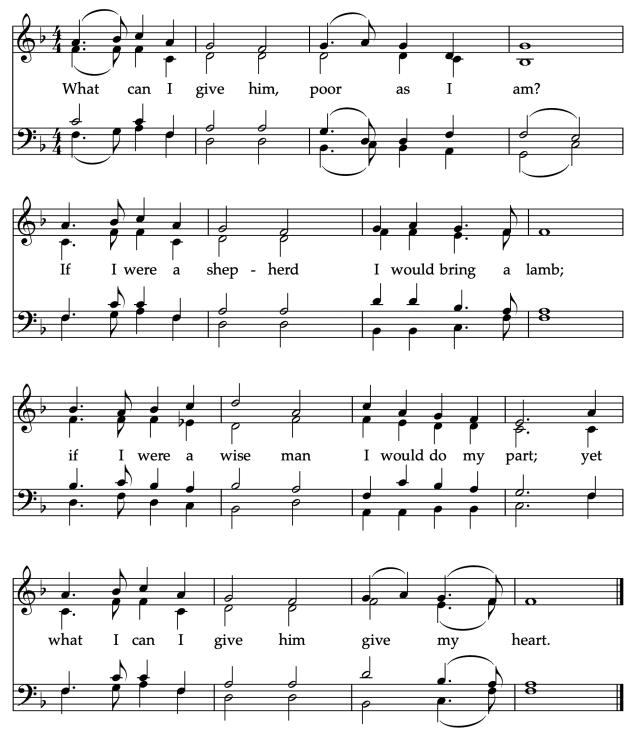
The Trinity Choir

I am the heart that houses the cone, the cone enclosing the cedar, I am the cedar sawn for the cradle, forest of the body, body of the tree. I am the cradle rocking the baby, I am the baby containing the man, I am the man nailed on the cross, tree of the body, body of the forest. I am the cross sawn from the cedar, I am the cedar enclosed in the cone, I am the cone housed in the heart, here in my heart Jesus, springing.

text by Kevin Crossley-Holland (b.1941)

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE - ELW 294 - In the Bleak Midwinter



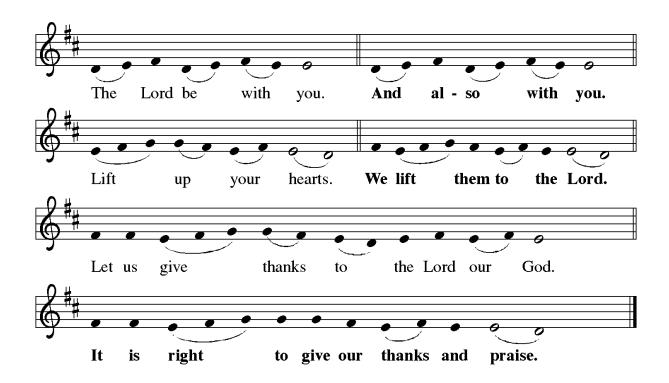
Text: Christina Georgina Rosetti, 1830-1894 Music: Gustav Holst, 1974 - 1934

CRANHAM Irregular

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

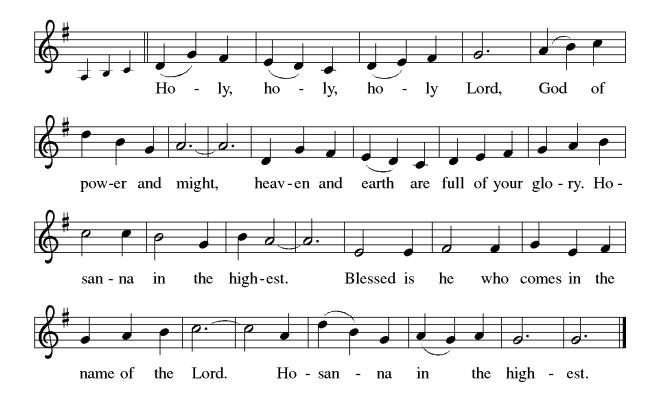
DIALOG



PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy one, the beginning and the end...

Let us proclain the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup...

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit... Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

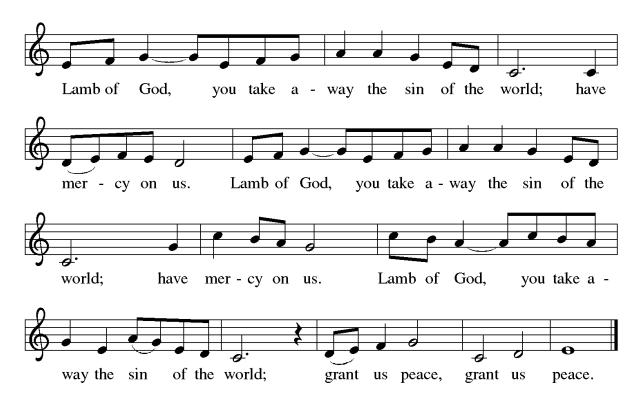
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Be seated.



DISTRIBUTION

All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.

When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference. The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.

Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles. Piano Solo - Christmas Medley - We Three Kings/Away in a Manger

arr. Wynn-Anne Rossi

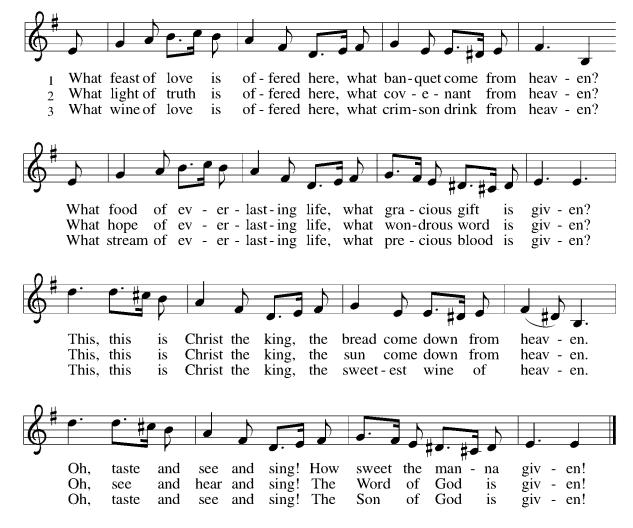
Danielle Smith, piano

Piano Solo - Still, Still, Still

arr. Phillip Keveren

Sandra Sittler

CAROL - ELW 487 - What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.



Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621



Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional Please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

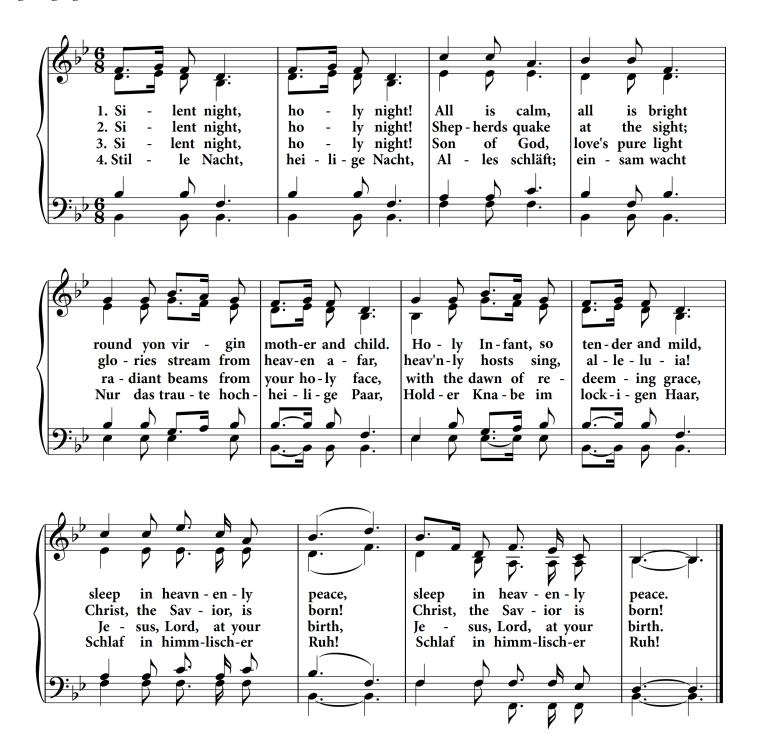
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING AND SILENT NIGHT

During the hymn, those at the center aisle will light the candles from the ushers. Please pass the light on to others in the pew and across the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another.



ANTHEM

Morning Softly Awakens

Weston Priory - Gregory Norbert, O.S.B.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
+ and give you peace.
Amen.

Please extinguish your candle.

RECESSIONAL CAROL - ELW 295 - Of the Father's Love Begotten - see page 21

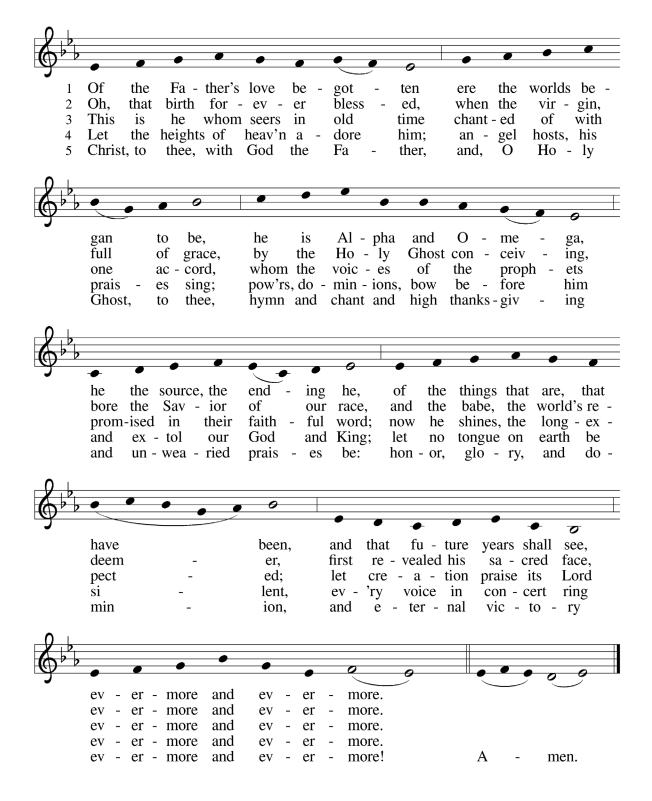
DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Paean on Divine Mysterium

John Cook



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Return to page 20 for the conclusion of the worship service.



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church!

As we gather on this holy night, we are blessed to have you with us.

Trinity is Reading's oldest worshiping community and continues to be one of the most vibrant congregations in Berks County. We are proud of our beautiful building that pulses with our long history, but we are also very proud of what God is doing among us right now.

We're a Lutheran congregation, but you'll find people with many different backgrounds among us. Lutherans believe that the most important thing is God's word of grace to us: no matter where our life has taken us, God is always ready to love us, forgive us, and heal us.

We're a congregation that loves music and worship. Our gifted ensembles have a place for new musicians young and old who want to use their gifts to praise and glorify God. Our Holy Eucharist service at 10 AM on Sundays helps us connect to God through relatable preaching and Holy Communion, celebrated using the church's age-old prayers and liturgy.

We believe that God welcomes all – including people whom the Church has wrongly excluded throughout its history. Trinity has affirmed the gifts of LGBTQ+ Christians and spoken up for racial justice in Reading for many decades. We continue to explore how we can better heed Jesus' call to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We're resolutely planted in our city, but we're proud to have members who come from every corner of the county. We also have many friends throughout the state and nation who connect to our media ministry online and on cable television.

If you're looking for a spiritual home, we'd be honored to have you walk with us here at Trinity. Join us for worship on Sunday and get to know our friendly, passionate people.

Lessons and Carols - December 29

The Sunday after Christmas will feature a service of traditional lessons and carols. What will be special about this service is it will be the first full service played by Trinity's new Cantor, Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz, and Karen Eddinger's final service with us. The service will also feature the Trinity Choir and Mixed Ensemble premiering Anne Krentz Organ's *We Come to Your Table*, a piece commissioned by Trinity in honor of Karen Eddinger's faithful service as Minister of Music.

The Nativity of Our Lord December 24, 2024 - 10:30 PM

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Presiding and Preaching: Pr. Hans E. Becklin Assisting Minister: Dcs. Deborah Graf Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger Cantor-elect: Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Lector: Ron Eddinger Communion Assistant: Steve Welz Acolyte: Amy Norton-Ritz Torchbearers: Grace and William Norton-Ritz Greeter: Allison Kalbach Ushers: David Zobian & Megan Souders-Zobian Media Team: Matt Mellen, Matt Althouse, Jennifer Mellen and Amy Bornhofen Altar Guild: Anita Dolak, David Himes, Amy Reinsel, Amy Stewart-Himes, Avery Mazur, Raye Watson and Donna Osborne **The chancel and font trees** are sponsored by Donna Osborne in honor of Karen Eddinger's music ministry at Trinity.

The Welcome Center Christmas Tree given in memory of Pastors Judy McKee and Walter Carlson by Fred & Jan Opalinski

Trinity Choir and Friends

Karen Eddinger, Minister of Music Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz, Cantor-elect

Shannon Barr Virginia Biniek Katherine Crusi Daniel Graf Peter Graf Steve Hofmann Ben Hoover Justin Huie Darryl Jeffries Hannah Long Andrew Maggio

Karen Campbell Ron Eddinger Daniel Graf Deborah Graf^{*} Julianne Michalik Maggio Patricia McMahon Jennie Michalik Charlene Norton William Norton Amy Norton-Ritz Fred Opalinski Megan Opalinski Paul Oxholm Ralph Reeves David Richards

Trinity Ringers

Hannah Long*Donna Osborne*Jessica Manning*Allison Seiple RogersAmy Norton-RitzDr. Cameron Lee Wentz

* Trinity Ringers Quartet

Ellie Richards

Lydia Singley

Sandra Sittler

Lisa Speece

Rob Speece

Katie Stine

Beth Welz

Maria Yost

Samantha Richards

Allison Seiple Rogers

Staff of Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin	Senior Pastor
Deaconess Deborah Graf	Deacon for Formation & Service
Karen S. Eddinger	Minister of Music
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz	Cantor-elect
Matthew Mellen	Media Director
Rachel Gambone	Parish Secretary
Pam Wasmuth	Bookkeeper
Peter Graf	Financial Administrator
Dave Troche	Sexton

The Rev. Fred S. Opalinski

Pastor Emeritus

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