

# Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

+ + +

Everything you need for worship is in this bulletin.

+ + +

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

+ + +

Please silence your cell phone.

+ + +

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.

# LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS WITH REFLECTIONS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM DECEMBER 29, 2024

Congregational words are in bold print.

#### WELCOME

#### **PRELUDE**

Musette on Adeste Fideles

Jeanne Demessieux

Please stand in body or spirit.

## **OPENING DIALOGUE**

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother. Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.

Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

# GATHERING CAROL - ELW 269 - Once in Royal David's City



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, 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. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Luke 2:1-7 Jacinda Motley

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

# **REFLECTION**: Luther's reflections on the birth of Jesus

Joshua Motley

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. . . . What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! . . . Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. . . . . You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, p. 33)



- 1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time when all the birds had fled,
- 2 With in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found;
- 3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair
- 4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel-song is true; the

that

a

as



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en-wrapped his beau - ty round; but was the ring of glo - ry the help - less in - fant there. The on ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn: as the hunt-er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high: chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt. kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.



Je-sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a!

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt. Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent. Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company. All rights reserved.

<sup>\*</sup> original: "mighty Gitchi Manitou"

SECOND READING: Luke 2:8-16 Susan Pohl

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**REFLECTION**: Luther's reflections on the shepherds and angels

Vickie Unruh

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. . . . This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, "Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?" I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: "Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition." But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, "Could not God have saved the world some other way?"

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, pp. 36, 40)

# **CAROL** - ACS 913 - While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks



- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!"

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715

Music: WINCHESTER OLD, Este's Psalmes, 1592; arr. George Kirbye, 1560-1634

**THIRD READING:** Matthew 2:1-12 Grace Norton-Ritz

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**REFLECTION**: Luther's reflections on Herod and the wise men

Amy Norton-Ritz

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. . . . Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word.

But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king "was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? He had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. . . . Now Herod had a crafty plan. "The Jews," thought he, "will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape." So he called the scribes to him and said, "Where is Christ to be born?" Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem.

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, pp. 50-52)



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

FOURTH READING: John 1:1-5, 14-18 Ron Eddinger

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

## **REFLECTION**: Luther's reflections on the Word made flesh

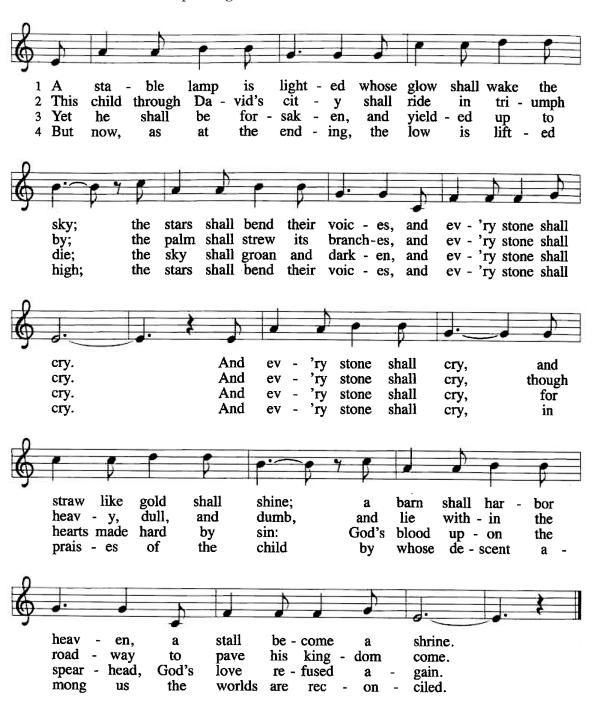
Karen Eddinger

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault.

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, pp. 33, 16)

# **CAROL** - ACS 910 - A Stable Lamp is Lighted



Text: "A Christmas Hymn," Richard Wilbur, 1921–2017 Music: David Hurd, b. 1950 Text ♥ 1961, ren. 1989 Richard Wilbur, admin. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Music ♥ 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

ANDÚJAR 76766676

#### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

After the final petition:

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

# The Trinity Choir and The Mixed Ensemble

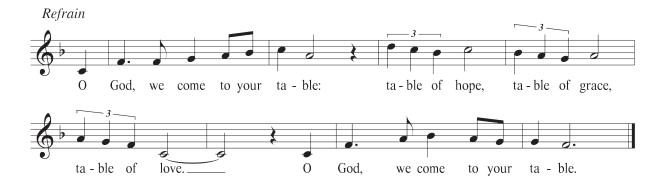
## Karen S. Eddinger, conductor Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz, piano

For Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, PA in honor of Karen S. Eddinger's faithful service as Minister of Music

# We Come to Your Table

Anne Krentz Organ

The choir introduces the refrain, which is repeated by all.



God, you have promised to be with us at your table.

God, you have promised to forgive us at your table.

You have promised to be with us, promised to forgive us at your table. *Ref* 

Refrain

God, all the saints gather here at your table.

God of all time, you are near, at this table.

All the saints gather here, with the saints you are near, at this table.

Refrain

God, give us courage, give us strength at this table.

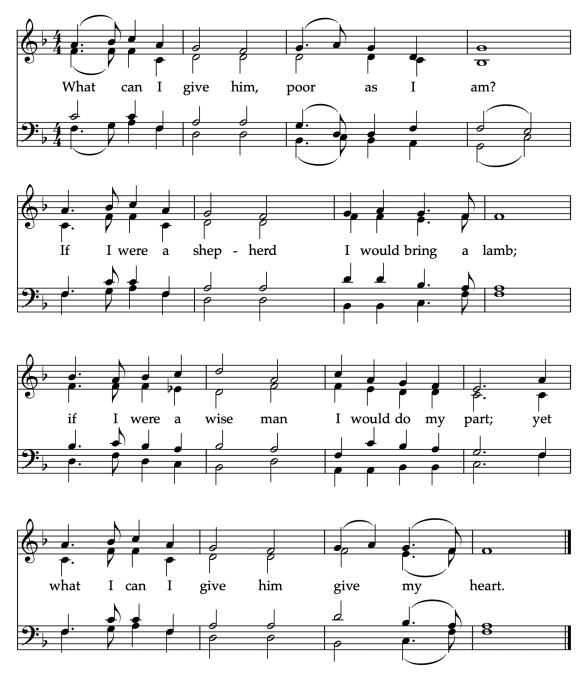
God, send us forth now with joy from your table.

Give us courage, give us strength. Send us forth now with joy from your table. Refrain

O God, we come now to your table.

© 2024 Anne Krentz Organ

# **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 heaven and earth,

from the beginning, you have called forth life,

in which you take delight.

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

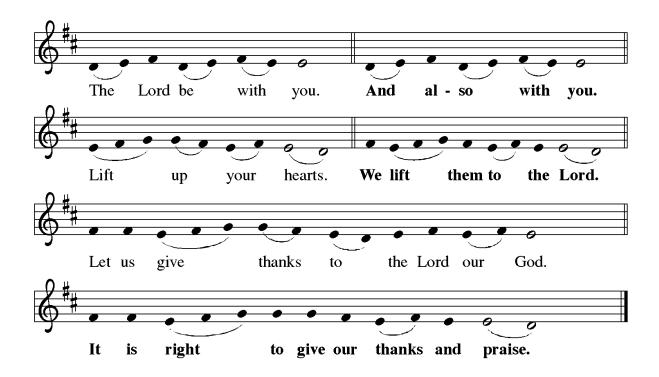
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,

that we may join the chorus of creation

to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

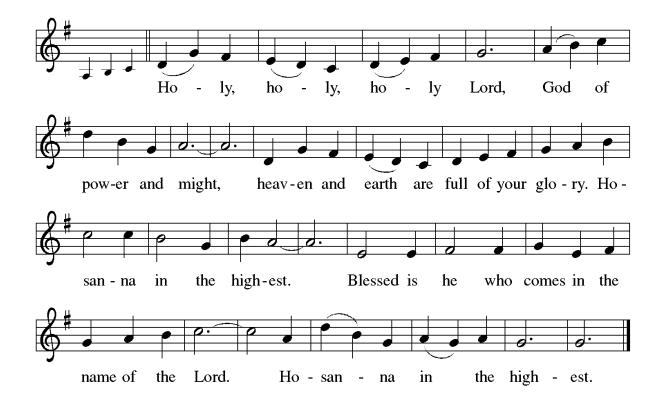
## **DIALOG**



## **PROPER PREFACE**

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

## **SANCTUS**



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us...

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 glory and praise are yours...

Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

# Amen.

## 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.

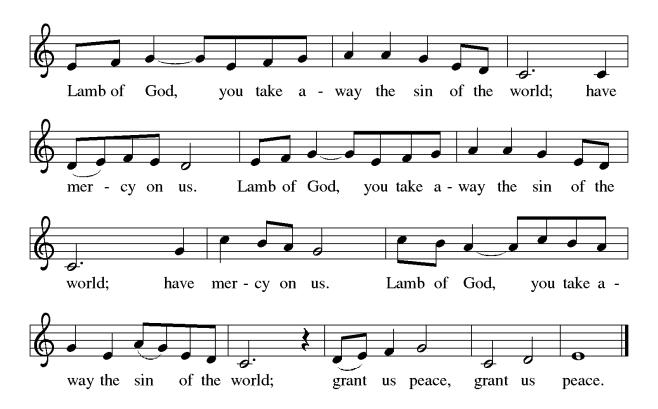
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

Be seated.

## LAMB OF GOD



## **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.

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

## 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.

# THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A MINISTRY

Karen, on August 24th, 2011, you began your work as this congregation's Minister of Music.

Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ

you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock.

You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service.

We give you thanks for the ministry of Karen among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:

bless this time of ending and beginning.

You surround your people in every time and place:

keep us close in your love.

You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:

prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;

heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.

Help Karen, her family, and all of us

to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As they have been a blessing to us,

so now send us forth to be a blessing to others;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## **BLESSING**

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

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

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

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

Amen.

**SENDING CAROL** - ELW 288 - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice - see facing page

## **DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

In Dulci Jubilo J.S. Bach

# **SENDING CAROL** - ELW 288 - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

# Sunday, December 29, 2024 - Lessons and Carols

# Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Preaching and Presiding: Pr. Hans E. Becklin

**Assisting:** Albert Pohl

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger Cantor-elect: Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Communion Assistant: Amy Litvinov

**Acolyte**: Declan Rosenbaum **Greeter**: Lawrence Fredericks

Media Team: Jacinda Motley, Abbie Smith and

Kate Speece

**Altar Guild:** Michael Faust, Linda Grim, Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov and Doris Strobel

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** is given in memory of Pastors Judy McKee and Walter Carlson by Fred & Jan Opalinski

Attendance Sunday, December 22: 106

# **Immediate Prayer Requests**

Ed & Peg Coleman, Mike Hummel (friend of Karen Eddinger), Patricia Wasmuth

# **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

Nancy Souders-Negri & Fred Negri, Donna Osborne, Linda Motley, Darryl Jeffries, Chris Drayer, Harry Feinauer, Walter Schur, Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith), the Sawyer family, David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), Christine Wells (friend of Jan Opalinski), and Craig Poole

# **Trinity Households and Ministry Partners**

Jessica, Andrew & Sabrina Pennington; Albert & Susan Pohl; Larry, Lars, and Erik Potteiger; Charles & Susan Randazzo; and Ralph & Pamela Reeves; Christ Episcopal Church; the Common Ground Recovery Community, Pr. Tom Scornavacchi and Pr. Jayme Babczak

## Broadcast Schedule for this week on Comcast Channel 190

#### Sundays

6:00 PM Music From Trintiy:A Few of My Favorite Thingswith Karen Eddinger7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

## Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service5:00 PM Music From Trinity:A Few of My Favorite Thingswith Karen Eddinger

Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.

## This Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 29

10:00 AM: Worship: Lessons & Carols (Nave)11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

**Tuesday, December 31** 9:30 PM: Staff Meeting

Church office closes at noon on December 31 and all day on January 1

Sunday, Janaury 5

9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (All Saints Room) 9:00 AM Sunday Time (Meet in Chapel)

10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)

11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal6:00 PM: Youth and Family Twelfth Nightat the Rosenbaum's

# Save the Date: Worship Volunteer Training & Social January 11th!

10 AM to noon, Saturday, January 11th in the nave

Whether you're a lector, acolyte, assisting minister, communion assistant, usher, or do many of those roles, plan to join us for a brief refresher on serving in worship from 10 AM to noon on Saturday, January 11th.

The brief trainings will take place in the sanctuary while those not being trained enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and treats in the Hintz Room. This means that if you and your family participate in multiple ways, you'll be able to enjoy a time of fellowship during the "down time". We plan to offer this annually as a way of maintaining our skills!

# **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

Liturgy is from Sundays and Seasons.com.

Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #22196.

Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.