

"People coming together to be The Church, not just attend one."

Trinity Lutheran Church is an open and inclusive church, welcoming all who seek God.

69 Griswold Street • Hillsdale, Michigan 517-437-2647 • tlchillsdale.org

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021



Service of Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of longstanding, we celebrate your gifts and your ministry among us. Our order of worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin.

MISSION STATEMENT - The Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture faith through proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by word, sacrament, deeds and loving relationships, to ALL people.

VISION STATEMENT - As proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to maximize our gifts and resources to reach out with God's love and serve the global community.

NURSERY - This congregation encourages ALL children to participate in worship. They learn more about worship and faith by being part of it than anything else. If you or your children need a break, a nursery is located in the lower level of the church building, and is accessible from either stairway. During worship, the nursery is self-service.

COMMUNION PROCEDURE - The communion table of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is open to all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. Please follow the ushers' instructions at the time of distribution. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome to come forward with their families to receive a blessing.

Communion will be given to each individual in small cups as they enter the sanctuary before worship. Please let an usher know if you prefer grape juice or gluten-free bread. Pastor will provide additional instructions at the time of communion.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly throughout the year. No one is ever required to participate in the sacrament, but it is offered to nourish and sustain God's people. This is in accordance with Lutheran teaching:

Background 35A: The Church celebrates the Holy Communion frequently because the Church needs the sacrament, the means by which the Church's fellowship is established and its mission as the baptized people of God is nourished and sustained. This practice was reaffirmed in 1989 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We continue to need "consistent pastoral encouragement and instruction relating to Holy Communion...pointing up Christ's command, his promise, and our deep need." For a variety of historical reasons, Lutherans in various places moved away from the weekly celebration of the sacrament.

Application 35C: Participation in the sacramental meal is by invitation, not demand. The members of the church are encouraged to make the sacrament a frequent rather than occasional part of their lives. (Excerpts from: The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 35)

Friday, December 24, 2021

Face masks are required at all times during worship due to the high COVID infection rate in Hillsdale County. The mask should fully cover the nose and mouth. Children under 2 years old and those with a disability that would make wearing a mask dangerous are not required to wear a mask.

INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Stand

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

- P Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, + one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P God, wonderful counselor,
- C we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.
- P God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, may God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.
- C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ELW #283 v. 1 & 2

All turn to face the cross.



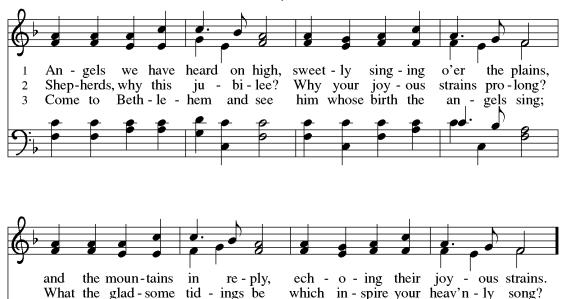
GREETING

- P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

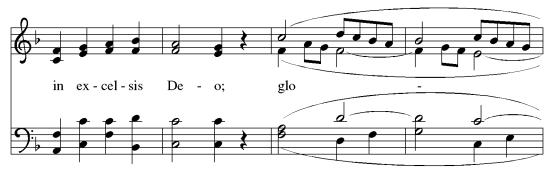
PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

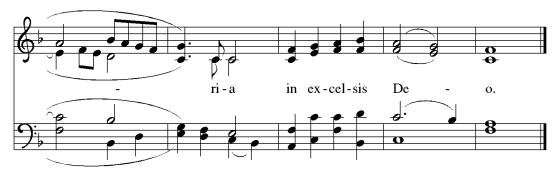
Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth Ρ and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant: God twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah: thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother- now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

LIGHTING OF THE WREATHELW <u>#289 v. 1 & 3</u>Angels We Have Heard on HighAll five candles are lit









PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen

Sit A reading from Isaiah.

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!

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; 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.

- A Word of God, Word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

A A reading from Titus.

SECOND READING

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.

¹¹The 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.

- A Word of God, Word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

Stand GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW <u>#289</u>

Angels We Have Heard on High

- Refain only see page 6
- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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,

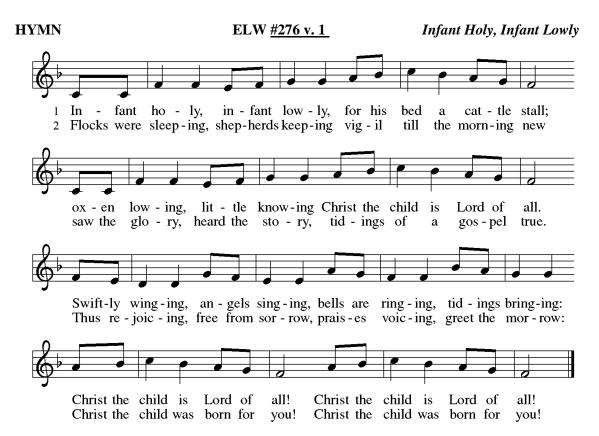
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Titus 2:11-14

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.

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





PRAYER AT THE NATIVITY

- P O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.
- C Amen.

The Christ Child is placed in the Crèche

HYMN

ELW #276 v. 2 (see above)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Sit SERMON



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father. the Almightv. 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

A Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

- A Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially*). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

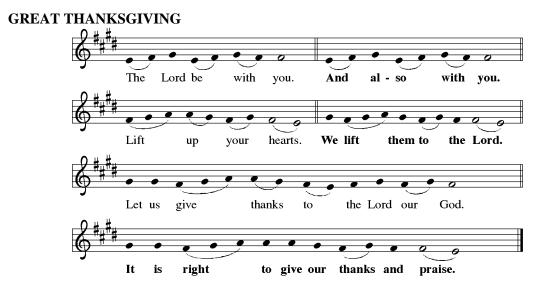
C receive our prayer.

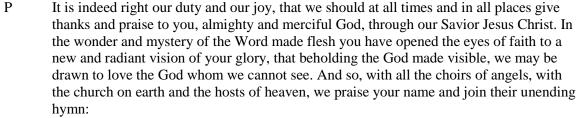
A Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

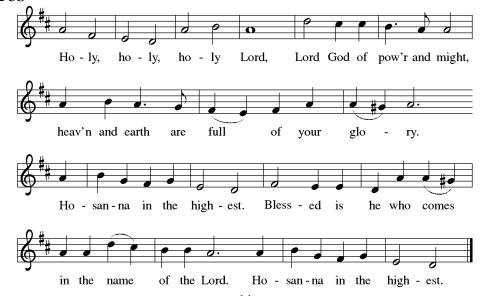
Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*). Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.









EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

> In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

- P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

P Christ the Lord is born to us today, and comes to us in this meal. Receive the gift of your Savior.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Please do not consume the elements until instructed to do so after the elements have been distributed to the entire congregation.

Those receiving communion may remove their masks.

- P The body of Christ, given for you.
- *C* All those receiving communion are invited to consume the bread.
- P The blood of Christ, shed for you.*All those receiving communion are invited to consume the wine or grape juice.*

BLESSING ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT RECEIVE COMMUNION

Parents or family members may choose to make the sign of the cross on the foreheads of children or individuals in their family group that do not receive communion

- P The Lord bless you and keep you as beloved children of God. + Jesus loves you.
- C Amen.

Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Silence for reflection.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Reading: John 1:1-14 (in darkness)

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.

HYMN OF LIGHT

ELW #281 v. 1-3

The hymn is sung as the candles are lit, beginning with the light of Christ.



BLESSING

- P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
- C Amen.
- P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
- C Amen.
- P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
- C Amen.
- P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #267 v. 1-4

Joy to the World!

As the lights come up, you may extinguish your candles



SENDING

- A Go in peace. Share the good news.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING AT TRINITY

Ministers: Every member of the congregation
Pastor: Rev. Jessica HahnCouncil President: Suzanne Sponsler
Vice-President: Joe PainterPiano/Keyboard: Paul LucasTreasurer: Chris McNamaraParish Secretary: Chris McNamaraSecretary: Sandra DufurCouncil Members: Johncie Langston, Norma Ludlow, Brad Otterbein, Gene Stockford-Shively,
and Tom Walworth.Secretary: Chris McNamara

SERVING AT TONIGHT'S WORSHIP:

SPECIAL THANKS

Christmas Eve music presented by Chris McNamara, Gene Stockford-Shively, Ella Hahn and Paul Lucas

7:00 PM

Assisting Minister: Amy Ottertbein Ushers: Tom Stockford-Shively, Earl Williams

10:00 PM

Assisting Minister: Phyllis Klingler Ushers: Jay Sponsler, Suzanne Langston

BOTH SERVICES

Altar Guild: Tom Stockford-Shively Offering Counters: Suzanne Langston, Phyllis Klingler

<u>POINSETTIAS</u> – Please see pages 22 & 23 for information on the beautiful poinsettias decorating our sanctuary.

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Christmas Poinsettias

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

Kristin Lucas

Paul Lucas

Shawn Shively

Cathy Shively (2)

Richard Stout Thomas Stout Todd King Myrna Bailey (1)

Weber Family (2)

Alvin Schmidt Dorothy Schmidt Sandy Schmidt Tammy Schmidt

Mark Klinger

Phyllis Klingler

Shawn Shively Donna Stockford Marion Stockford Ron Petrella All the members of Trinity who passed away this year Tom & Gene Stockford-Shively

Poinsettias surrounding the altar are available to be taken home by the purchasers after the late service.

Christmas Poinsettias

IN HONOR OF

GIVEN BY

The people of TLC	Reverend Jessica, Mason, and Ella Hahn
The Glory of God Pastor , Mason, & Ella for their years of service	Tom & Gene Stockford- Shively (Tom & Gene Stockford- Shively
to Trinity The Glory of God	Harold and Norma Ludlow
The Glory of God	Keith and Amy Otterbein
All who lost loved ones in 2021	Terry Vear (2)
Pastor Hahn	Terry Vear
The Glory of God	Tim & Becky Morrison (2)

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to make our worship space more festive and to honor our loved ones.