

The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary’s magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ’s advent is for “the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—“we proclaim the Lord’s death.”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Unexpected and Mysterious (A Reflection) David Lasky
Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly Roland F. Palmer/Skinner Chavez-Melo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT LITANY

P: In Advent we are reminded of a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel,

All: **Surprise us by your coming.**

P: We gather together to let God’s good news reorient our lives.
O Emmanuel,

All: **Surprise us by your coming.**

P: We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us.
O Emmanuel,

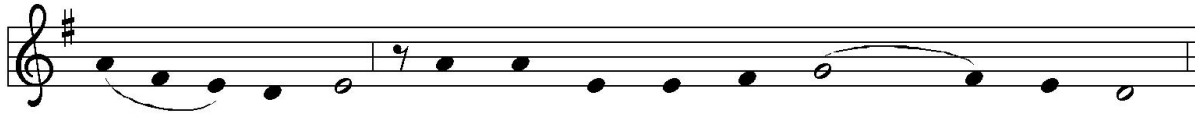
All: **Surprise us by your coming.**

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame fills this place with the glow of hope, peace, joy and love.

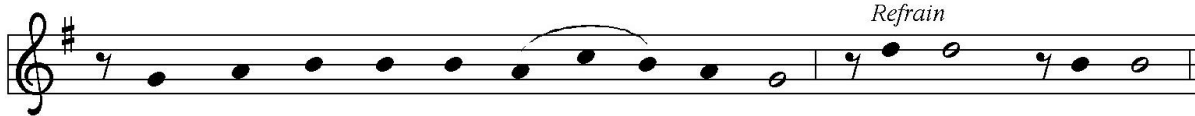
All: **Amen.**



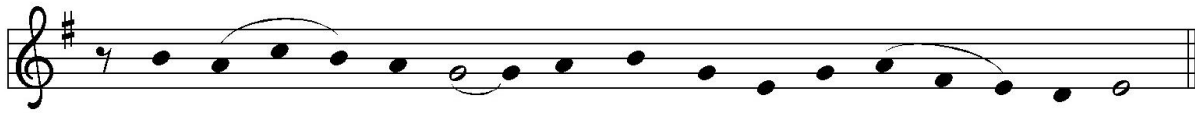
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

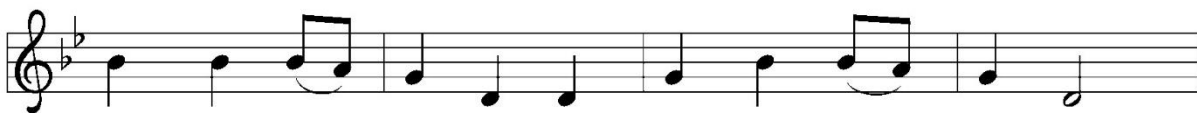
One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

All of the candles are lit on the Advent Wreath

P: Let us pray... Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

All: Amen.

KYRIE: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* **ELW 247**



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

CHORAL INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD, Sing & Rejoice! Choir

He Came Down **Phil Kadidlo**

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;

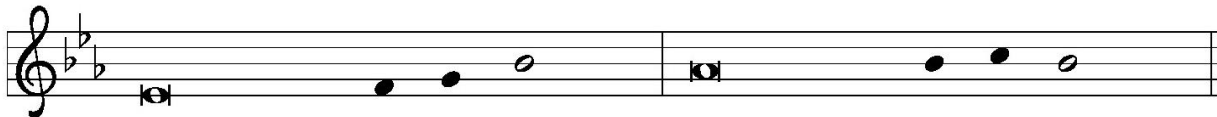
^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses*)

Refrain:



Verse:



^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
 and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on | those who fear you,
 from generation to | generation. R**

⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm
 and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**
⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.
⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**
⁵⁵ the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt
 offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do
 your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been
 sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P: Word of God, word of life.
 All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

Refrain:



Verse:



*Here I am, the servant | of the Lord; * let it be with me according | to your word.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.
 All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is
 God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she
 in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
 ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.
 watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
 Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984
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 Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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

Sing Wait for the Lord before and after the prayers.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system has lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!' The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with some measures containing a fermata or a final chord.

Respond after each petition.

P: Lord, in your mercy,
All: **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: **And also with you.**

TABLE SETTING SONG: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Verses 1 & 2)* **ELW 490**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plate at the entrance to worship or in the Offering Box on the table with the bulletins.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray... Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

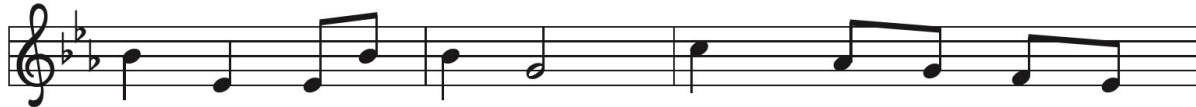
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy..... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**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: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come take your place at the table.

All: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MUSIC: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* **ELW 265**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

All: Amen

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

All: Amen.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Joy to the World* David Cherwien

BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The bulletin is sponsored in loving memory of my mother Florence Bunting and grandmother Florence Hipple and Alice Kirby Bunting by Susan Bianchi.

SERVING TODAY

Assisting Minister: JoEllen Myers
Communion Assistants:..... Deb Brooks and Rodney Gross
Reader: Danielle Mariano
Livestream: Kirk Sponaugle
Acolytes:..... Teagen Haak and Grace Paul
Advent Wreath:..... Adam Gardner



Dear Lord Jesus, When You walked upon this earth, You healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and raised the dead. Now we come to You on behalf of those who are in need today and pray that You would send them Your healing power. Hear our prayer for Your name's sake. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Bereaved: The Family of Blanche Fenner (Mother of Fran Wood)

Prayer Concerns: Susan Bianchi, Jack Bishop, Lucy Campbell (daughter of Jacob and Sarah Campbell), Barbie (Hocker) Colestock (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Bill Fosnacht, Glenn Hoffa, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Wanda Oliver (friend of the Lechleitner's), Julia Padgett, Tony Primerano (friend of Steve Shuey), Tom Rieger, Chris Ruff, Jenn and Greg Shirk (friends of Sandy Stine) and Ed Zaenglein.

DAILY PRAYERS

Roberta Anderson, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Carole Bowman, Virginia Frank, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunham's), Dennis Lubold, Nancy Miller, Darrin Mineke (cousin of the Dunham's), Dona Pastuck, Ed Schaeffer, Georgie Sibert, Pete Stone, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Melissa West (friend of Susan Bianchi), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all of our Homebound members.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, Patrick Stewart, Tory Young

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at htluth@comcast.net or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.

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Friendly
Reminders

Thank you for joining us for worship today in-person and through livestreaming.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite all people, as well as young children who are not yet receiving the Sacrament to come forward and receive a blessing. Please ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free option. At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. At his table Christ grants us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. *May your hearts be opened, and your lives made new by his gracious love.* Please give your completed communion card to the usher during communion.

Holy Communion distribution today: The usher will guide you down the center aisle. Prepackaged Communion elements with grape juice are available on the small table. If your preference is regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver trays. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant on either side with regular wine. There will also be one assistant with non-alcoholic wine. Stand or kneel as you are able and remain at the rail for as long as you desire.

Consecrated Communion Elements are available for "Live Stream" worship at home. Please contact the church office at 717-533-2467 or by email at htluth@comcast.net to arrange to pick up elements or have them delivered to your home.

Office Hours The office will be open this week on Monday and will be closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas day. The office will reopen on Monday, December 30th. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467,

Email Address: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org. **In case of emergency** please call the church office and follow the prompts for emergency contact information.

Sunday School Information: All classes meet from 9:00am-9:45am. **Children's Sunday School** meets in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). **Confirmation Sunday School** for Grades 6-8 meets in the youth room. **Sunday School** for Grades 9-12 meets downstairs next to the Youth Room. **Adult Discussion** meets in room #16. All are welcome! **Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, December 29th.**

Birthday Blessings! Susanne Wiest will celebrate her 100+ birthday in December. Her birthday is on December 24th, you can send cards to her at: 12 Conestoga Drive, Apt. 114, Lititz, PA 17543-7542. Susanne is celebrating her 104th birthday!

Sing and Rejoice Choir: All school age youth are encouraged to join in singing with the Sing & Rejoice Choir. They will sing TODAY, Sunday December 22. Copies of the music are available at church today (See Izanne Leonard-Haak).

The 2nd Family Fellowship Luncheon is TODAY right after church from 11:15am. Come out to this special Christmas luncheon. We are inviting the folks from the Altar Guild to join us for the festivities. This event is open to ALL families and members of Holy Trinity!! At this December luncheon, we will enjoy conversation, share a meal, play table games, and help the Altar Guild with Christmas church set-up after lunch. Hope to see you and your family after church for this awesome event!!

Faith in Action Advent Food Collection. During Advent, the Faith in Action committee is asking for donations for the Hershey Food Bank. There is a flyer in the narthex with a list of items not often donated. Any donations of non-perishable foods are also acceptable. We will deliver the collected goods to the Food Bank in January.

Email Update! Some of our weekly emails to members are bouncing and being sent back. It seems to be isolated to AOL and Comcast email subscribers and not all Comcast & AOL subscribers have been affected. This makes it difficult for us to find the exact trigger that only affects certain emails and we are working to resolve this. Comcast has told us that it is possibly related to a recent update from Microsoft. Please remember that all news, bulletins and updates are available via our website: htluth.org. In the meantime, if you are affected and not receiving your weekly blasts, please add htluth@comcast.net to your safe senders contact list in your email server to be sure you are receiving emails. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Many Thanks! Members of Holy Trinity generously provided fifty-six gift cards for the Hershey Food Bank during their Giving Tree gift drive. Thank you for helping to make the holiday season happy for so many in our community.

Faith in Action Service Project- On Monday January 20th 2025, in conjunction with G2:10 Outreach, the Faith in Action committee is sponsoring a meal for the unsheltered in south Harrisburg at the Quality Inn Riverfront parking lot near Shipoke. January 20, 2025, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is designated by Congress as a National Day of Service and is a great time for our congregation to serve our community. We have planned a menu and are looking for monetary and in-kind donations of food and clothing items. If you would like to drop off donations or volunteer your time, please contact Rodney Gross at rodgross@comcast.net or (717)649-6224. A detailed list of food and clothing items and a sign-up sheet are available in the Narthex.

Help Wanted! Do you consider yourself technically inclined? Computer-literate? You may be just what we need! Holy Trinity is seeking volunteers to help with Livestreaming our worship services. There are times when neither Kirk or Bob is available, and we need more volunteers to "learn the ropes." The process is easy to learn and would involve "on the job" training by shadowing/observing the operation for a few services. There are detailed

instructions, and you can get more creative as you gain experience. Reach out to Kirk Sponaugle if you have questions: (717) 418-6271 or kirk.sponaugle@verizon.net. Thank you, Kirk and Bob, for your service!!!

Email Update- Some of our weekly emails to members are bouncing and being sent back. It seems to be isolated to AOL and Comcast email subscribers and not all Comcast & AOL subscribers have been affected. This makes it difficult for us to find the exact trigger that only affects certain emails and we are working to resolve this. Comcast has told us that it is possibly related to a recent update from Microsoft. Please remember that all news, bulletins and updates are available via our website. In the meantime, if you are affected and not receiving your weekly blasts, please add htluth@comcast.net to your safe senders contact list in your email server to be sure you are receiving emails. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Many thanks for your generous donations! We continuously express our thanks to all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving which allows us to continue to operate valuable ministries and pay for the ongoing bills at Holy Trinity. The Simply Giving program offers automatic withdrawals from your bank account or charges to a credit card; donated through our website (htluth.org) by clicking on the ‘Give Now’ button; donated by downloading the Mobile App ‘GivePlus Church’ (be sure to select Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity) or by taking a picture of the QR code. Please contact the church if you have any questions about any of these methods.



Please send articles and announcements for the Newsletter to Anita Housman, our Communications/IT Specialist. Please send articles to her at aahousman2@gmail.com. She is always gathering announcements and articles for the monthly newsletter. Just a reminder – submit articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month.

Readers, Greeters and Flower Deliverers for January and February are needed to greet people as they come into church and deliver flowers after the service on Sunday. Readers are needed to read the 1st and 2nd reading and the Psalm. The lists are available on the bulletin board. Please sign up today or contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

Inclement Weather. Holy Trinity will follow the Derry Township School District schedule for cancellations in the case of inclement weather. If school is closed, no meetings, functions, or office hours will be held. Church services will be held, if at all possible, even when winter weather causes concern. If questions arise regarding cancellation of Sunday services check the Holy Trinity website or Facebook page and watch for cancellations on CBS21 or ABC27 or online at cbs21.com, or abc27.com.

2024 Contributions: If you would like a reminder of your current year-to-date giving for 2024, please contact Peg Huebner, 717-838-0686 (leave a message) or peghuebner@comcast.net. Contributions for 2024 must be received in 2024 or be postmarked by December 31, 2024 in order to be included in your End of Year Statement. All contributions after that time will be noted for 2025. End of Year Statements for 2024 will be available for pick up before and after the church service on January 12, 2025. All statements not picked up will be mailed after that date. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



**Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

3 PM Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
2:45 PM Musical Prelude

5 PM Family Service with Holy Communion and candle lighting
Available thru Livestream
4:45 PM Musical Prelude

9 PM Festival Service of Holy Communion and candle lighting
Available thru Livestream
8:45 PM Musical Prelude

You are Welcome Here!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.