



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH-TRUMAN  
CHRISTMAS EVE-CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
PASTOR PENNY RITTER**

*Please use the time before the worship service begins to quietly prepare your hearts to welcome the coming Christ Child. Let the music refresh your spirit. Your silence helps those around you to prepare for worship too. Thank you.*

**PRELUDE**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

The Scripture: Matthew 4:16

The people who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.

The Scripture: John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Review of the Advent Candles and the Promise of the Christ Candle

*(The Candles are Lighted)*

**THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

**Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.**

**Thanks be to God for the hope, peace, joy, and love that are ours in Jesus Christ.**

**Thanks be to God for the precious gift of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Thanks be to God for the gift of light that is ours in Jesus Christ.**

**Help us to live our lives, walking in that light, and sharing with all we meet the good news of hope, peace, joy and love which are ours from God in Jesus Christ.**

**THE SONG:**            *“He Came Down That We May Have Life”* (vs 1, 2)

**ELW #253**

**1** He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**2** He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.



**THE OPENING PRAYER:**

O Almighty God...by the birth of Your Holy Child Jesus, You gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in His light we may see light, grant to us the most wonderful Christmas gift of love to all people that the likeness of Your Son Jesus may be formed within us, that we too may be reflections of His light and love, In the name of the Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever AMEN.

**OPENING CAROL**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**ELW #283**

**1** O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

**Refrain**

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

**2** The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing! Refrain

**3** Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest: Refrain

**4** Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: Refrain

**THE OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE: Isaiah 9:6-7**

**THE CAROL**

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

**ELW #254**

**1** Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

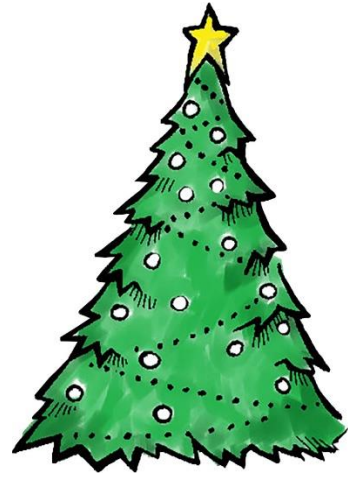
**2** Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**THE CHILDREN'S MOMENTS: "The Symbol Tree"**

**THE CHILDREN'S SONG: "O Christmas Tree" (1 verse)**

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree  
Thou hast a wondrous message,  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree  
A lesson you can teach us.

Thou dost proclaim the Savior's birth,  
Good will to men and peace on earth,  
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,  
Thou has a wondrous message.



**A CHRISTMAS STORY: "A Little Thief"**

**THE ANNUNCIATION: Luke 1:26-38**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Mary Did You Know"**

*sung by Allison Klassen*

**THE CAROL:**

***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

**ELW #279**

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

**THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-14**

**THE CAROL:**

***"Angels We Have Heard on High"***

**ELW #289**

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains

Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Refrain

**THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:15-16**

**THE CAROL:**

*“Away in a Manger”*

**ELW #277**

**1** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet  
head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down  
where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

the sky and stay by my cradle till morning  
is nigh.

**2** The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from

**3** Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to  
stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender  
care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you  
there.

**THE READING: Luke 2:17-18**

**THE CAROL:**

*“Go Tell It On The Mountain”*

**ELW #290**

**Refrain**

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

**2** The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

**1** While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. Refrain

**3** Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

**THE GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-14**

**A CHRISTMAS STORY: “A Perilous Midnight Path”**

**THE CAROL:**

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**ELW #270**

**1** Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

**Refrain**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**3** Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. Refrain

**2** Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,

## OFFERING/OFFERTORY

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *“When I Think Upon Christmas”*

*sung by Allison Klassen*

### THE CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin’s womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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

### COMMUNION:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*(All those who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, are welcome to take communion.)*

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

### COMMUNION HYMN:

*“What Feast of Love”*

**ELW #487**

**1 What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?**

**This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.**

**What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?**

**Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!**

*All those who believe  
in Jesus Christ as our  
LORD AND SAVIOR  
can receive  
Communion today*



**2 What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!**

**3 What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!**

**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.**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES; PASSING THE LIGHT. (children can turn on flashlights)**

**THE CAROL:**

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

**ELW #281**

**1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace**

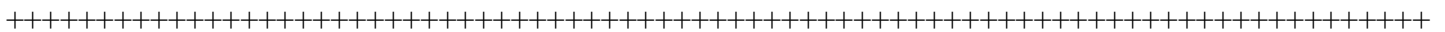
**heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,**

**3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

**THE SENDING FORTH AND ASCRIPTION TO GLORY:**

**PLEASE LEAVE QUIETLY, REFLECTING UPON THE GREAT GIFT  
GOD HAS GIVEN TO US.**



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***(Please take your candles and flashlights out with you along with your Communion Cups  
and place them in the baskets outside the sanctuary doors...thank you!***



Thanks to  
Those who  
Purchased  
Poinsettias

Joyce Ysker  
Judith Doble  
Lois Lloyd  
Connie Selnes  
Barb Shoen  
Arlene Peterson  
Norm & Marilyn Anderson

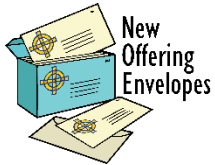
Charlie & Robin Miller  
Don & Sandy Meyer  
Jim & Brenda Hansen  
Jan Warrington  
Doug & Vicky Schwanz  
Dave & Cathy Sorenson

Natalie & Huston Schubert (2)  
Lowell & Yvonne Noorlun  
Vanessa Kettner  
Chris & Sadie Mosloski  
Jeff & LeAnn Maloney  
Don & Kathy Wilkening

**A Big Thank You! To all those who purchased poinsettia plants for Trinity’s altar.  
You may take your plant home after the Christmas Eve service.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Trinity Church Council designated the offerings from Christmas & Lenten services in 2021 to the following organizations: \$1000 – Meals on Wheels (Truman), \$1160.25 - Truman Food Shelf, \$2000 – ELCA Good Gifts-(*goats, pigs, Cow, gardening, school supplies and Bibles*)



Your offering envelopes for next year are in your mailboxes at the church. If you would like them mailed to you, or if you would like more or less or did not receive any, please contact the church office.

The **2023 WELCA Handbooks** are also in your mailboxes at the church. If you didn't receive one or you do not have a mailbox, there will be extra's on the table in the narthex.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25** - No Worship Services.

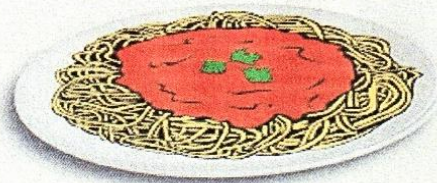
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26:** The church office will be closed. Brenda will be in the office on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> instead.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



The Church Worship Time will change to **10:00 AM** beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### **GIFT Christmas Program and Spaghetti Supper at Trinity Lutheran Church**



**January 4th 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Christmas Program will start after GIFT at 5:30pm  
Meal will be served from 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Meal Includes: Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, bars and juice.**

**Families and Congregation are all invited!**



An Open House in honor of Marlene (Miller) Ratike's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday will be held on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 11:00-2:00 pm (following worship service) at Trinity Lutheran Church- Truman. No invitations are being sent, no gifts please.

The Board Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting are due on January 2. Please have them sent to the church office-you may email your copy also.



TRINITY'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup> immediately after the Sunday worship service

**FOR YOUR INVORMATION**



If you want to be included on our text message list for important announcements, contact the church office. This includes when there is a church cancellation. (If you have received texts before, you are still on the list).



**Give Online During the Holiday Season**



SCAN CODE HERE

Visit our church website at [www.trinity-truman.org](http://www.trinity-truman.org) to give directly. It is very safe to use.

Trinity Lutheran also uses a free mobile app that makes it simple to make your one-time gift or set up recurring giving. Just download the free "Vanco Mobile" app from the App Store or Google Play and search for "Trinity Lutheran"

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Office Phone 776-4781, Office Hours: Mon 8-11, Wed 8-11 & 1-4, Fri. 8-11  
 Email: [trinitytruman4781@gmail.com](mailto:trinitytruman4781@gmail.com), Website: [www.trinity-truman.org](http://www.trinity-truman.org)  
 Follow us on Instagram: [www.instagram.com/trinitytrumanmn](http://www.instagram.com/trinitytrumanmn)

Pastoral Contact numbers: Pastor Penny Ritter-507-776-6576  
 Yvonne Noorlun-2021 Council President: 507-776-8555



## OUR SYMBOL TREE

You may have noticed the smaller Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary, decorated with a variety of very unusual items. Each of those items remind us of Jesus, or of some other Spiritual truth. During each of the four Sundays in Advent, members of the congregation helped to decorate the tree, each Sunday adding more and different items. Here is a brief summary of the meanings associated with the decorations on the tree:

**1) EVERGREEN**-a sign of eternity and everlasting life

**2).LIGHT**-Including lights, stars, candles, Jesus the Light of the World, the Bright Morning Star, and wise men followed a star to find the Baby Jesus; as Christians we are called to walk in the light of God's love

**3). THE ROUND ORNAMENTS**-the earth, God's creation is round; the round balls, are circles that have no beginning or end just as God has no beginning or end; another sign of eternity. The meaning of the colors:

Red-the color of power; God is a God of power; also reminds us of the blood of Jesus shed for our sin

Blue-heaven; God created the heavens and the earth; our eternal life in heaven.

Green-life and renewed life;

Gold-a gift for royalty; a reminder of heaven where the streets are paved in gold

Silver-Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver

Purple-the color of royalty

Multi-colored-the good news of Jesus is for all people regardless of their color.

The Different Sizes-God loves people of all sizes from the smallest to the biggest, from the youngest to the oldest

**4).THE NAMES/TITLES FOR CHRIST:**

The Lamb-Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; we are often referred to as sheep. The Cross-Jesus the Savior who died on the cross

**5). MUSIC**-including the angels, the drums, the trumpets, the bells

The angels sang of the birth of Jesus and reminds us to give glory to God; a favorite Christmas song is "The Little Drummer Boy" which reminds us to bring whatever gifts we have to the King; the trumpets remind us that Jesus is coming again and it will be announced with the sound of the trumpet of God; bells are often rung to announce a celebration or to call people to worship

**6). EDIBLE ITEMS**-including fish, apples, candy canes, mushrooms

Fish-Jesus called fishermen as His first disciples; He calls us too to be "fishers of men and women and children"

Apples and other fruit-remind us of the Garden of Eden and like Adam and Eve, of our disobedience to God

Mushrooms-always pop up in expected places, Christians are to "pop up" in unexpected and sometimes undesirable places to share the good news

The candy cane-the cane is shaped like a shepherd's staff/crook; Jesus is our Good Shepherd

**7). NATURE**-including snow, snowmen, birds, butterflies

Snow- Scripture says we shall be washed white as snow; snow also is a form of water and water is often used in religious rituals like baptism; water is a special gift from God and has many uses for us and is necessary for life

Birds-Scripture uses different kinds of birds in many different ways; The Holy Spirit appeared as a dove; we will be lifted up on eagle's wings; a sparrow does not fall to the ground without God's knowledge; God feeds even the sparrows; a dove guided Noah to land after the flood; and birds, like barn swallows or pigeons probably flew in and out of the stable where Jesus was born, reminding us of how humble and poor His birthplace was

Butterflies-a traditional symbol of resurrection and new life; Jesus came to bring us life through His resurrection

**8). MISCELLANEOUS**-Including Christmas stockings, heart

Christmas stockings -remind us of God's gift to us and of our call to be generous;

Heart-essential for life; the symbol of love. For God so loved.