

4th Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024

# Love



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity  
Holy Communion ..... 9:00 AM  
Sunday School ..... 10:30 AM

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."

### ***Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!***

Our worship follows a traditional order inspired by scripture and rooted in ancient patterns. The full order for worship (liturgy) is found in this bulletin.

\*Please stand as you are able. Spoken congregational responses are in **Bold**.

#### **GATHERING**

*Worship begins with the organ prelude. It's a time for silent meditation as we turn our hearts and minds to God.*

#### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*GATHERING**

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

#### **\*PRAYER**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us take a moment to confess our sin in front of God and one another.  
Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ..... Hymn 254

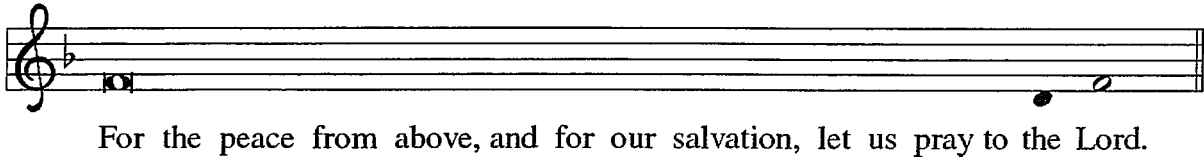
**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

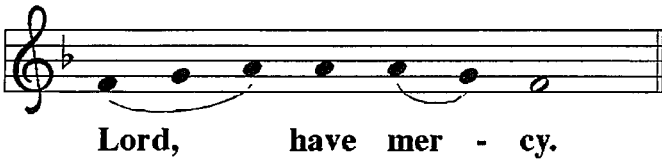
\*KYRIE - (Lord have mercy) ..... page 138



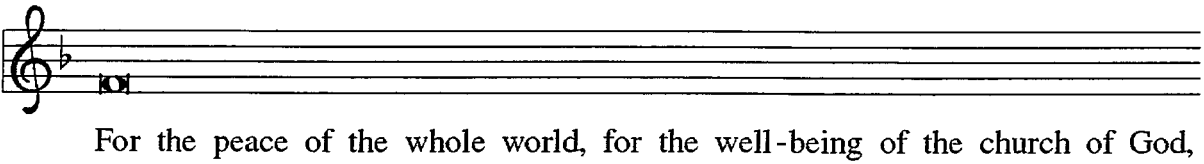
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



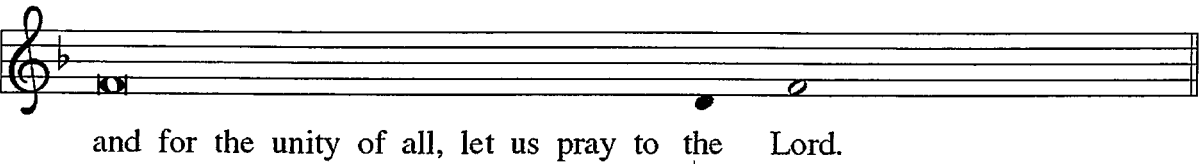
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



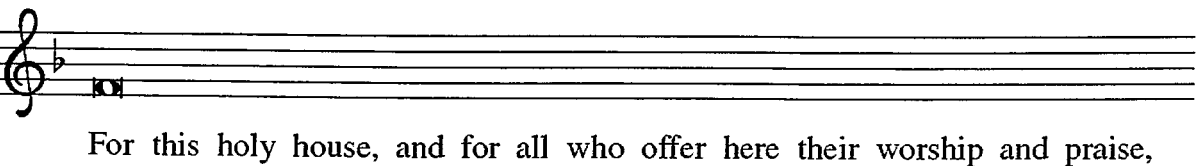
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



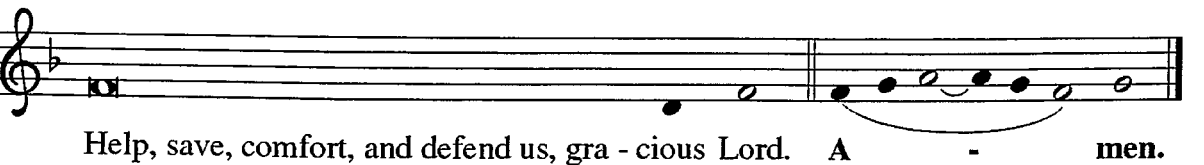
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE - (Glory to God) ..... page 148

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



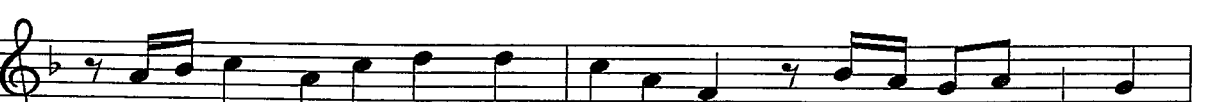
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



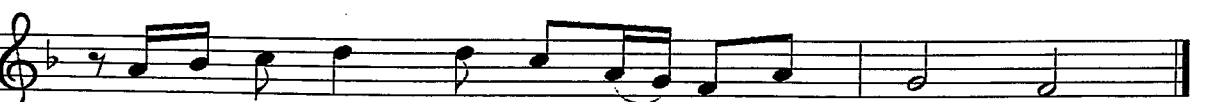
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

### \*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - The Lintner Family

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 4) #240



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

### ADVENT PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draw near. **Amen.**

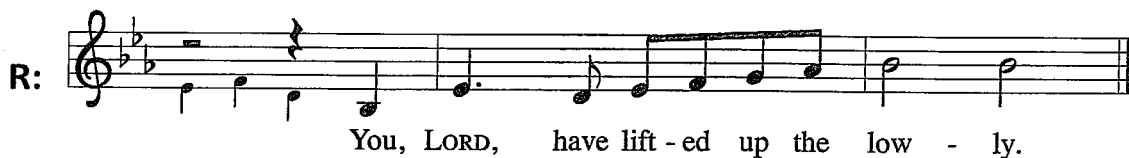
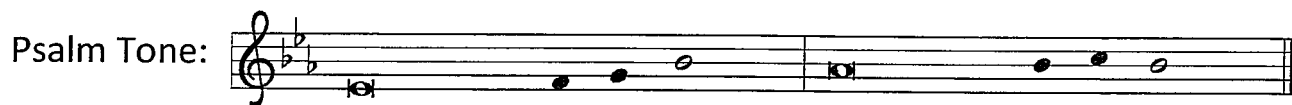
### THE WORD OF GOD

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.*

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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; <sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness <sup>1</sup> of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in <sup>1</sup> God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your <sup>1</sup> lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will <sup>1</sup> call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great <sup>1</sup> things for me  
and holy <sup>1</sup> is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on <sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
from generation to <sup>1</sup> generation. R**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength <sup>1</sup> with your arm  
and scattered the proud in <sup>1</sup> their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty <sup>1</sup> from their thrones  
and lifting <sup>1</sup> up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry <sup>1</sup> with good things  
and sent the rich <sup>1</sup> away empty.

<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your <sup>1</sup> servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- <sup>1</sup> ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> the promise made <sup>1</sup> to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- <sup>1</sup> 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.*

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> 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)." <sup>8</sup> 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), <sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SENIOR CHOIR -

Advent Prayer ..... Peterson/Larson

*Pianist - Heather Buffington*

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ..... Page 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



\*GOSPEL - Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.** *(spoken)*

*Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [ <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”] The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** ..... The Rev. Althea Seidel

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ..... Hymn 257

**\*APOSTLES' 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Response: Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer. (After the prayer) Amen.**

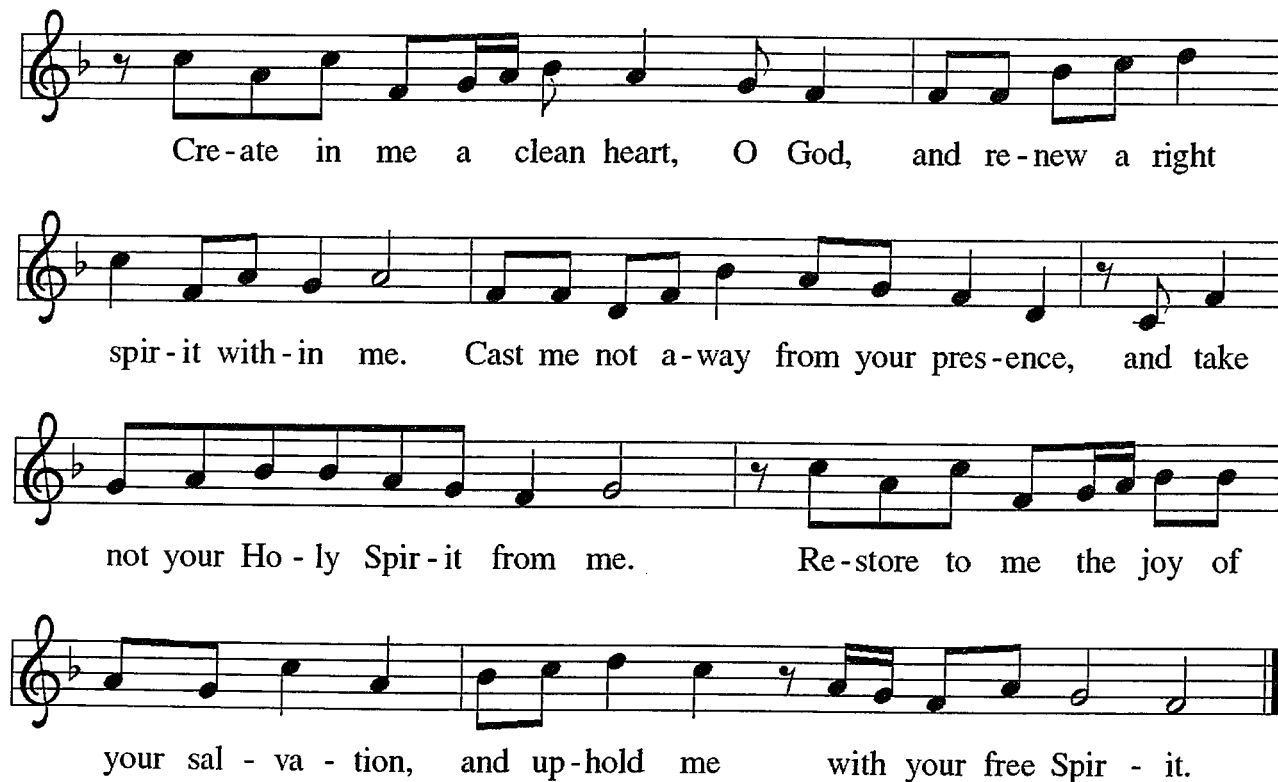
**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

## HOLY COMMUNION

**OFFERING** - *(offering plates are located in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.)*

### \*OFFERTORY HYMN - (Create in Me a Clean Heart)



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we bring before you the fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comfort your people with the promise of the coming Messiah, through whom you make all things new. 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:

**\*SANCTUS - ("Holy, holy, holy") ..... Page 144**



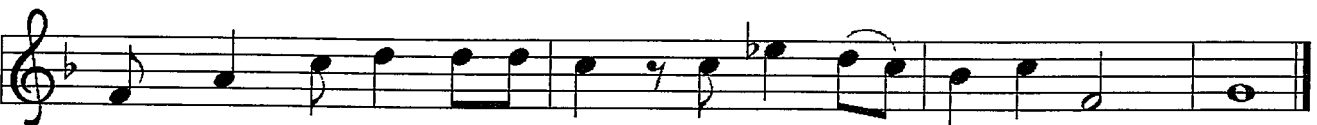
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the all of your creation. **Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.** Blessed are you for your promises and 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: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

#### **\*THE 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**

**Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Amen.**

**\*AGNUS DEI - (Lamb of God) ..... Page 154**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and bring you peace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Holy God, we wait on you and trust in your promises, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to proclaim the greatness of love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### **\*BLESSING**

May God's promises fill you with hope. May the coming of the Messiah fill you with joy. And may the Holy Spirit grant you peace and comfort in believing.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** - Joy To The World ..... Hymn 267

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Spread the hope of the Advent season! **Thanks be to God. We will!**

### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**PARTICIPANTS**

The Rev. Althea Seidel

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music  
Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director  
Barry Thompson- Lector  
Jay Brown & Denise Rhoades - Greeters

Dan Dietzel - Organist  
Karen Fitting - Lay Assistant  
Zachery Kaylor - Acolyte

\*\*\*\*\*

*♿ Elevator access to upper and lower levels is located at rear entrance of church.  
📵 Remember to silence cell phones & other electronic device*

\*\*\*\*\*

**THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:**

- Monday, December 23 - Praise Ringers 6 p.m.; Psalm Ringers 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Service 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 25 - Office Closed for the Holiday
- Thursday, December 26 - Office Closed for the Holiday

**PRAYER UPDATE:** We have been asked to keep Becky, Bryan Albright, Barb Atwood, Linda Blessing, Terry Clearwater, Monique & Jack Derfler, Jim Dibert, Deb Dobson, Susie Eckert, Dan Fox, Fred, Lohla, Mo Gockley, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Joette Hollinger, Bella Johnson, Raymond Kohr, Doris Kreiser, Jim & Judi Light, George Smith, Marie Smith, Ernie Thompson, Nancy Warner, and Mary Yeagley in our prayers.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

**NAMETAGS:** Please stop by the Welcome Table (parking lot entrance) and pick up your nametag. We are asking that you wear your nametag to Church until an announcement is made. If you do not have a nametag, please contact the Church Office.



**DONATIONS NEEDED:** As the weather starts to get colder, the Spread the Warmth campaign will begin. Donations of blankets, gloves, scarves, hats, jackets, sweatshirts, and socks are needed. We welcome any donation of clothing or shoes. Please place your donation in The Giving Place in the Spread the Warmth bin. Thank you!

**SPECIAL COLLECTION: BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:** Your gifts to the Building Maintenance Fund go towards the upkeep and improvements of our Church. Envelopes can be found at either Welcome Table or in the Pews. You can also mark your donation with a note. Thank you!

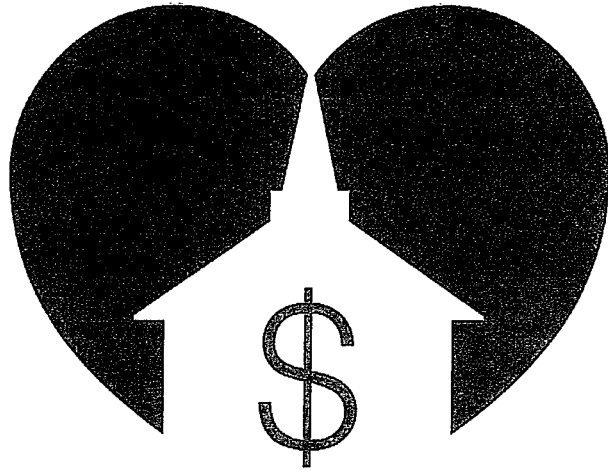
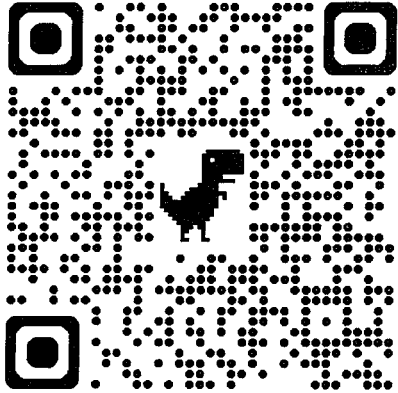
**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** If Church is going to be cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on our website page: [www.trinityleb.org](http://www.trinityleb.org). Don't forget to refresh your browser when viewing the website. You can also find information on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/htlclebanonpa](https://facebook.com/htlclebanonpa). The decision will be made by 7 p.m. the Saturday prior to service.

**LIGHTBULBS WANTED:** Used lightbulbs are needed for a craft for the next Bazaar. Please bring any lightbulbs into The Giving Place and place them in the craft bin.

**REFRESHER COURSE:** How well do you remember Luther's small catechism? Did you ever study it? A refresher course will be offered starting January 5 during the Sunday School hour in the Social Room. The course is sponsored by the Care Class.

**JOIN THE DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM:** On Sunday, January 19, 2025, a planning meeting for the 25<sup>th</sup> trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response team will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz. This is also the deadline to sign up for the trip. Registration for the trip is only \$150/person. The trip will be taking place, April 6-12, 2025, and will be to western North Carolina. More details will be shared at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but hope to make the trip, please contact Pastor Glenn Beard at [gbeard@luthercare.org](mailto:gbeard@luthercare.org).

**No Cash/Check?  
No Problem!**



**Donate Now!**



## Church Treasurer's Financial Summary

	For the Month Of Nov 2024	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	11,903	198,160	266,453
Expenses	(18,777)	(263,738)	(267,151)
Net Income	\$ (6,874)	\$ (65,577)	\$ (697)

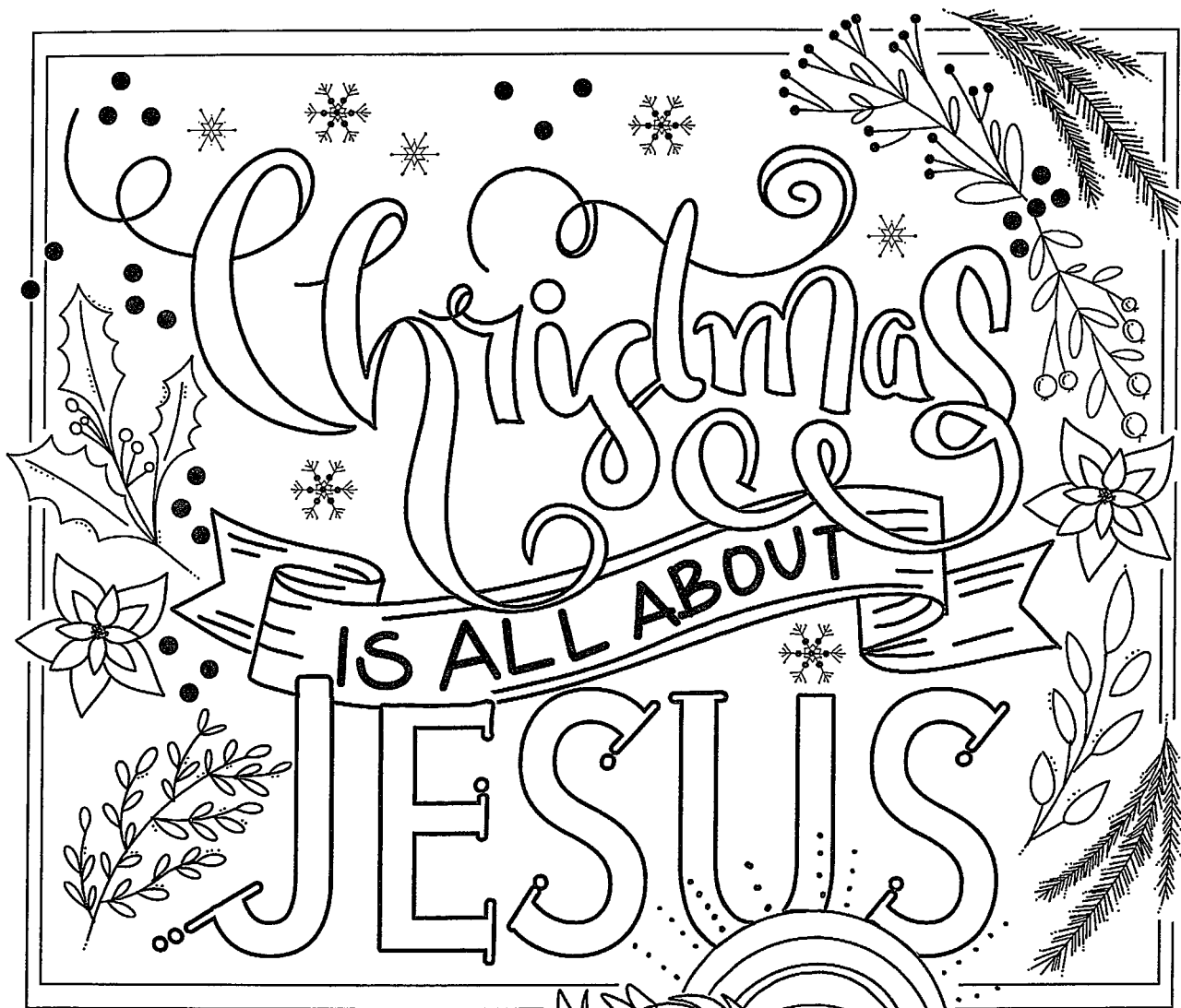
**COOKIES, COOKIES, & MORE COOKIES:** If this sounds like your idea of a good time, you are cordially invited to the Care Class Annual great Christmas Cookie Buffet! Feel free to bring your leftover Christmas cookies and your appetite! (It is not necessary to bring cookies to participate.) After you load up on cookies, you are invited to stay and learn about Europe. The class will be watching Rick Steve's European video. The Care Class meets in the Social Room following Worship Service.

**THIS SUNDAY:** The Care Class invites you to join them for a viewing of An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story. In the decades after WWI and WWII, Reinhold Niebuhr became the voice of conscience to an America reaching the pinnacle of its economic/political power and has influenced leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr, President Barack Obama, former President Jimmy Carter, and others. His broad appeal is proven by the popularity of his Serenity Prayer, adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous. Niebuhr was a mentor and friend of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The Care Class meets in the Social Room directly after Worship Service.



*Hello winter*

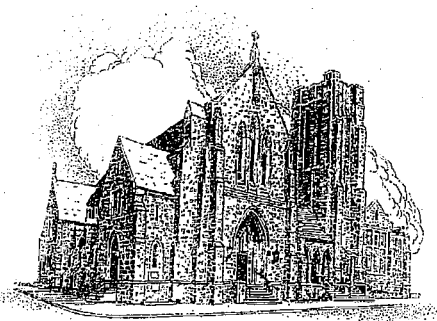
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"She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him  
the name Jesus, because  
he will save his people  
from their sins."

*Matthew 1:21, NIV*





**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

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YouTube: Holy Trinity Lebanon PA      [www.facebook.com/htlclebanonpa](http://www.facebook.com/htlclebanonpa)

**Pastor Althea Seidel: [pastoralthea3@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralthea3@gmail.com) • cell: 484-345-0399**

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.,  
also available by phone, email, text message, or appointment

**Stephanie Kaylor: [stephanie@trinityleb.org](mailto:stephanie@trinityleb.org)**

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.