

# trinity tidings

# **Volume 53 - No. 11**

**December 2024** 

Church Office Hours: Mondays thru Thursdays 9:00 - 12:00 PM Closed on Fridays The Rev. Althea Seidel, Pastor (pastoralthea3@gmail.com)
Stephanie Kaylor, Newsletter Editor (stephanie@trinityleb.org)
Visit us on the web at www.trinityleb.org

trinity tidings is the newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 723 Lehman Street, Lebanon, PA 17046

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends of Holy Trinity,

I hope you are all doing well. We had quite a break this fall from cold temperatures.

Now that it is getting cooler, I pray you all find ways to stay warm. Being part of a community of faith is also a way to warm our spirits and support one another. I look forward to seeing many of you as we begin Advent and dive into the Christmas season.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! As of Sunday, November 26th, we decorated the church for the season! Thank

you to all who helped in this endeavor! It is wonderful to see our worship space transform and bring us hope for Advent and Christmas.

Our time together has been going by quickly. I continue to make phone calls and attempt to visit everyone that time allows each week. If you are wanting Holy Communion or wish to speak to me sooner, please don't hesitate to call the church office or myself directly. I look forward to seeing

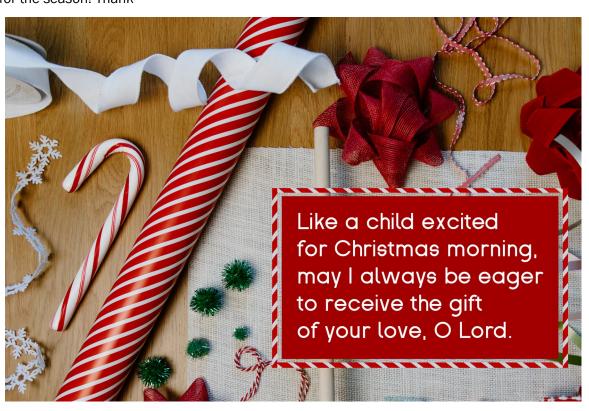


many of you in the coming weeks.

See inside this issue for some more Christmas thoughts from me.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Althea





#### **Luther's Small Catechism**

The Care Class will be embarking on a study of Luther's Small Catechism lead by Jim Dibert. Everyone is invited to attend. The first class will be held on January 5. The Care Class meets in the Social Room. Light refreshments will be served.



# **Upcoming Events:**

January 19: Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald

January 19: Chicken & Waffles at Nawakwa

January 19: Winter Work Day at Nawakwa

#### **Church Council Members**

Neal Galbraith (President)

Louise Lundquist (Vice President)

Nancy Brightbill (Secretary)

Brad Bishop (Church Treasurer)

Kathy Bishop

Jay Brown

Jack Derfler

Karen Fitting

Pam Gainer

Jessie Green

Scott Hower

Lynn Kern

Henry Wampler





# **Upcoming Classes:**

December 8\*
January 12, 26\*
February 9, 23\*

\*Sponsors Invited to Attend



# Bonhoeffer

It was determined that many church members and friends will be viewing the movie individually. So, make plans to catch the movie and then join us for a discussion immediately following worship service on December 8. We will meet in the Social Room. A light lunch will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Althea.

#### **Committee Chair Persons**

Worship & Music: Paul Copenhaver

Finance:

Horace Ehrgood

Christian Education: Elizabeth Hershey

Property:

Henry Wampler

Archives:

Position Vacant

Social Ministry:

Jim Dibert

Social Activities:

Stephanie Kaylor





# **December Worship Schedule**

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 24\*, and 29 9:00 AM—Traditional Service 10:15 AM— Sunday School for all ages

#### **Online Worship Service:**

Our online worship will continue to be available. You can find the service by going to https://www.trinityleb.org/links. Here you will find links to the live-stream, the bulletin, and the replay of the service so that you can watch at any time you wish during the week.

\* Christmas Eve Service will start at 7 p.m.

# **Prayer Partners**

If you would like your name added to the list for prayer, please call the church office, 717-273-8567 or email at stephanie@trinityleb.org.

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



We ask our readers to include the following people in their prayers:

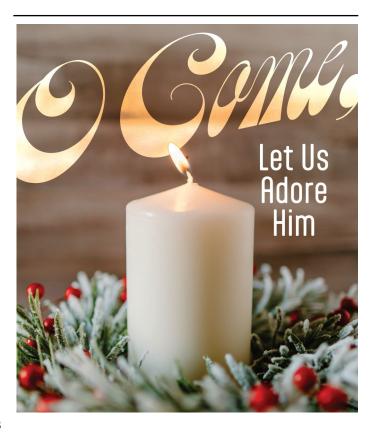
Bryan Albright, Barb Atwood, Linda Blessing, Terry Clearwater, Monique & Jack Derfler, Jim Dibert, Deb Dobson, Susie Eckert, Dan Fox, Mo Gockley, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Joette Hollinger, Bella Johnson, Raymond Kohr, Doris Kreiser, Jim & Judi Light, George Smith, Marie Smith, Ernie Thompson, Nancy Warner, and Mary Yeagley.



**Our Vision...**Our mission is to grow in faith and discipleship, share the Good News of Jesus through word and deed, love others as Christ loves us, and celebrate life in Christ through worship, sacraments and service.

**Our Mission...**We are a community of believers who come together in:

- ₱ Worship to be transformed by the presence of Jesus Christ in and through God's gift of Word and Sacrament.
- ☆ <u>Christian Education</u> to deepen our faith and strengthen us in faithful service, trusting in the creative activity of the Holy Spirit.
- ₱ <u>Friendship</u> to celebrate our unity in Christ and sustain and nurture each other as we journey with Him in our day-to-day lives.
- **Stewardship** to gratefully use the time, talents and possessions we have been given in furthering our mission in response to Jesus' call and the leading of the Holv Spirit.
- **The Evangelism** to share the Jesus story so that others may come to know God's reconciling grace and the peace, joy and hope that his divine grace gives.
- **Social Ministry** to respond to the spiritual, mental and physical needs of our neighbors and advocate for the poor, hungry and vulnerable peoples of the world.

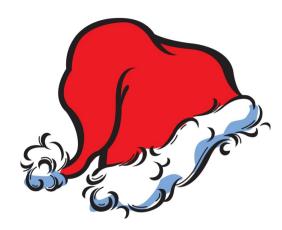


#### Santa Clause was a Real Person!

Santa Clause is a shortened way of saying Saint Nicolas, whose life the Church commemorates on December 6th. There has been multiple stories and legends told about him over centuries. What is actually known about him is that he was born in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Patara, a village on the southern coast of today's Turkey. He was orphaned as a boy and raised by his devout Christian grandparents. As a young man he became a priest and shortly after was elect the Bishop of Myra, a city near Patara. He was imprisoned during the persecution of Christians under Roman Emperor Diocletian. After Christianity became legal by Emperor Constantine, Nicholas attended the Council at Nicaea in 325. He died on December 6, 343.

Because his father was a wealthy merchant, Nicholas inherited a large fortune when he came of age. Yet Nicolas lived simply, choosing to aid those in need as they came to his attention by giving anonymous gifts from his inheritance. But his generosity did not remain a secret.

The story told is that a very poor family had three daughters who were reaching marrying age. The Roman custom at the time was that the father of a young woman had to provide a dowry to her perspective husband. Without a dowry a girl had virtually no chance of marriage, resulting in a life of destitution or even being sold into slavery. Nicolas heard of these girls' plight and just as each sister reached marrying age, he crept up to their house in the dark of night and dropped a bag of gold through



an open window for her dowry. A plot was hatched to discover who was engaged in such generosity.

Knowing that the donor put a bag of gold through the window twice before, some men hid in wait for whoever it was to arrive for the third time. So Nicolas was caught "red-handed" so to speak. Word spread rapidly of Nicolas' benevolences, especially to the children in and near Myra. Others began imitating Nicolas, particularly giving anonymous gifts on December 6th. When ask who these gifts were from, the answer was, "They are from St. Nicolas." So as the custom spread from country to country it took many forms.

In many places, since the Christ child received gifts upon his birth, the giving of gifts to children by St. Nicolas became associated with Christmas. It has been suggested that Santa's gift giving should return to December 6<sup>th</sup> so the true significance of Christmas could be emphasized once again. Do you think that is possible in the commercialized world we live in today?



#### **Poinsettias**

For those who wish to provide a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use either the envelope included in your November envelope packet or include a note in your donation. Envelopes are also available at both Welcome Tables. \$7.00 provides one poinsettia Please remember to include the name of the person(s) presenting the poinsettia. Place the envelope in the offering plate or in the envelope slot. Deadline for acknowledgement on the Poinsettia List is Sunday, December 15.



#### **Advent Food Donations**

Bags are now available in Luther's Place. The list is a suggestion. Please feel free to fill your bag or bags with whatever donations you like. When you are done, please return the bag to Luther's Place. We will be taking the donations to Lebanon County Christian Ministries in January. Thank you for your participation.

# The Light of the World

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a mighty wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light.'"

Genesis 1:1-3a

Every day our body senses when to wake by the natural light in our environment. Our circadian rhythm also tells us when to sleep and rise to a new day. Sometimes I hear members greet me on a Sunday morning and when I say, "Good morning, how are you?" the reply is "Well, I'm awake and breathing." Sometimes all we can do is get ourselves out of bed and breathe. Sometimes all we have is our "daily bread."

In the next few weeks people tend to brag about all the things they accomplished this year, and yet many of us should be proud of ourselves for the small things: getting out of bed, keeping a job, breathing, being able to use our senses, being able to eat, resting when we need to, and getting through the day.

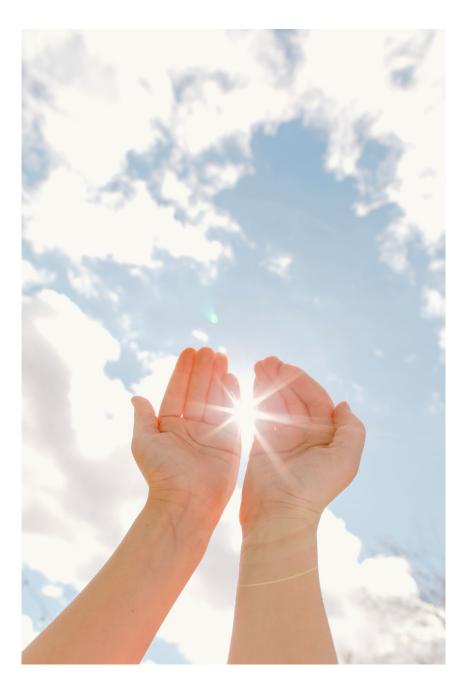
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it."

John 1:1-5

We are about to find ourselves in Advent and getting closer to Christmas. We have so much anticipation and it seems Christmas itself flies by so fast. God is our light in darkness. In these months with less actual natural light, during the holidays which we may or may not enjoy, and during the winter season, God remains with us. God reminds us that our Messiah is near and we are called to connect with Christ. Jesus, our Emmanuel, is celebrated and we can find Jesus right by our side. He is our God Incarnate. He is our Savior, our Teacher, our closest friend.

I pray you all remember how much God loves you this season. I hope you find some moments of peace and comfort amid all the things going on in our lives.

Above all, know that your Pastor is praying for you



around Christmastime. I am always here to lend an ear and help guide you toward the love of Christ.

Some related Christian music recommendations:

Let there Be Light by Point of Grace Tunnel by Third Day By Your Side by Tenth Avenue North

I also highly recommend a wonderful Christmas album written by Tommee Profitt and performed by various artists (Live concert may be found on YouTube or iTunes) called *The Birth of a King*.

Peace and Christmas Blessings to all!

- Pastor Althea

#### Bazaar 2024

It is hard to believe that another Holiday Fellowship Bazaar has come and gone, but here it is, December. The Bazaar Committee met in July and from that time, the Bazaar Chairs and their Booth Helpers did what had to be done, to organize, to prepare, so all would be ready on November 9 at 8AM when we opened the doors for our NINETY-FIRST Bazaar. With the exception of a two-year COVID shut down, who would have guessed this Bazaar would still be an annual happening for our church and for the community? This speaks volumes for the dedication and commitment of our Trinity Congregation.

Here are our NEW VOLUNTEERS for 2024: Connie Thompson and Sherry Koons covered the Outreach Booth for Jim Dibert who was recuperating from surgery: Barry Thompson assisted with various duties in the kitchen; Kay Diebus and Amy Soulliard joined Books and Puzzles: Vanessa Von Seggern took the place of Jean Darkes and Alizah Engle at Christmas Novelties so Jean could help Gina Battistelli as cashier in Luther's Place: Ron Birch willingly joined the Clean -Up crew; Janice Copenhaver volunteered to be a greeter with Bonnie Battistelli; after many years of loyal service as a food cashier, Judi Light resigned, and Karen Mitchell stepped in to fill Judi's position and help LaRue Galbraith: James and Barb Kaulback offered to sell several of their dulcimers, and donate the proceeds to the church; and with much enthusiasm, Pastor Althea attended our meetings, supported us, and helped as needed during Bazaar Day.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU for the time and work given by Booth Chairs and their assistants; to the congregation for attending the Bazaar, for their monetary gifts, and item donations that were sold as pre-owned merchandise at our White Elephant, Books and Puzzles, and Jewelry Booths, and for donations of baked goods and candy, and the small crafts that were made for sale at Christmas Novelty Booth. We appreciate those who prepared and served breakfast and lunch, who greeted, who were cashiers, and who assisted with set –up and clean-up, both of which were completed in great time. We were glad Denise Rhoade was available to answer our "Where" questions during set-up and clean-up.

#### ALSO THANK YOU TO ...

Thrivent Financial who graciously approved four, \$250 grants; Giant Foods who donated two, \$25 Gift Cards; Dieffenbach Chips who donated four large cartons of single serve bags of chips, and Jubilee Ministries who parked a truck at Trinity for on-site packing of



donations at close of the Bazaar and returned for the Truck to deliver the donations to Jubiliee.

Terry and Karen Weaver who harvested lavender from our local Community Garden, dried and shucked It, and made 93 lovely, fragrant, sachets that were given free to guests at the Outreach booth;

Jim Dibert who wrote the history about our Holiday Fellowship Bazaar which was printed in the November Church Newsletter:

Pam Gainer who organized and led a successful October Bazaar Apple Dumpling sale;

Marilyn Gerberich who knitted piles of dish cloths and crocheted baskets of scrubbies which were sold at the Country Store;

Jay Brown (deliveries and moving church furniture), Jim and Kitty Logan (signs and directions), Neal Galbraith (homemade soups and kitchen/lunch) who each handled the noted tasks, as well as many necessary "extras"; Mike and Erika Runkle who headed up breakfast. Our menu offerings were well-received and we were busy the entire time serving hungry guests;

Guy and Karen Litner, who were married at Trinity on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and donated their remaining reception food to the Bazaar. Our volunteers who worked the days before Bazaar ate the food for lunch.

Ed Kulakowski who manned the back of the Jubilee Truck and packed all Trinity's donations in safe order as the Clean-up crew delivered boxes and boxes and more boxes from the Social Room to the truck;

#### Continued from page 6, Bazaar 2024

Craig and Nancy Brightbill, Renee Hunter, and Tom Gainer who designed, and crafted new gift-worthy Christmas Décor and donated everything they made to their Bazaar Booths:

Beth Moore and Sue Jordan who propagated many of the plants that were sold at the Plant Booth;

Louise Battistelli and committee who visited local farms and grocery stores for the freshest in-season fruit and veggies, and worked many summer days to make and to can our jellies and our chow-chow;

Nancy and Darwin Miller who called on the congregation "Baking Cavalry" for ALL kinds of baked goods. The variety of the cakes, cookies, pies, breads, and other goodies was exceptional. They were sold at the Baking Booth as they were packaged by the baker, or the baked good was divided into numerous single serving desserts and sold from the kitchen at lunch.

Roberta Wampler and Sue Ann Whitmire who presented the jewelry, purses, and scarves with the latest in-style fashion-sense, beautifully displayed and easy to sell.

Denise Rhoade and her committee who worked weeks to make some of the congregation's and community's favorite candies: peanut butter balls; vanilla, chocolate, peanut butter and Philly fudge; and coconut peaks. The candy was prepackaged in various assortments and weights to accommodate the most-often requests. Individually wrapped Rice Krispie squares, jars of candy with holiday cross-stitched lids, and some other candy made by the congregation was also sold;

Elizabeth Hershey who offered a variety of new holiday totes and numerous bundled gift options to slide Into the tote, for easy, one-stop shopping;

Eugene and Donna Reinbold and their helpers who separated, organized, cleaned, measured, and repaired all the White Elephant donations, so our thrift shoppers could easily locate the one treasure at a bargain price that was sure to be a highlight of their Bazaar shopping experience;

Jodi Moyer and her crew who displayed by author and subject, a galore of hard-bound and soft-bound books, and at least a hundred plus puzzles were organized by "number of pieces". At inexpensive prices, our pre-owned books and puzzles were an easy, fast sell.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST,

PLEASE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND A STANDING OVATION TO two very busy, hard-working, "stop-what-they-are doing -so -they- can -assist" ladies, Stephanie Kaylor and Denise Rhoade. As always, they moved us forward before, during, and after the Bazaar. And we appreciate that they took care of so many seen and unseen details and requests throughout this past year even when no one was really thinking about the Bazaar.

And PLEASE ROLL THE DRUMS WITH ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE for Renee Hunter and Gina Battistelli who co-chaired this Bazaar with me. With three of us, it was much easier to make decisions, to share duties, and to complete work. They are two energetic, dependable, happy gals who kept me on tract, directed, and less frazzled. I offer them a Huge, Wonderful, Extra-Special Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Renee, Gina, and I hope that even before we learn about profit, the congregation is feeling satisfied and pleased with Bazaar Day. We feel all fell into place beautifully and that all of us worked well together and enjoyed the day. We also reconnected with cherished friends whom we had not seen who stopped by to check on us. As well, we received numerous compliments. Those words of praise are because of all of you—an amazing congregation who gave their best effort to accomplish a job well done. Because of you, our Bazaar is one of the nicest and best-attended Bazaars in the area, and it was truly a FIRST PLACE, BLUE RIBBON EVENT!

The Co-chairs will call a Bazaar Committee meeting, TBA, for January 2025.

Prayers for all to experience a meaningful Advent Season, a blessed Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

May God bless and keep you, Denise McDaniels









#### LCCM Food Bank Item

The items requested in December are **coffee, tea, or creamer**.

Items can be brought to the church at any time and placed in the red shopping cart labeled "LCCM Food Bank" located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther's Place).

Please continue your generosity by continuing to donate to the Food Bank. Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated.

# Mark Your Calendar for a Special Worship Service:



# Wednesday, December 18 at 7 p.m.

This service is meant to be a calm healing service for those who aren't really in the Christmas spirit, those who feel stressed, anxious, depressed, or may be grieving. Some churches used to call it the Longest Night service as it takes place during the week of the shortest day of the year (the longest night of darkness at the beginning of winter). We pray for the world, our community, and anyone else we wish to lift to God. Feel free to only attend this service, attend Christmas Eve Worship which will be at 7:00PM on December 24th, or come to both! Friends and neighbors are ALWAYS WELCOME to join us!

# **Donation Item**

The items requested in December are Raman Noodles and Soap.

Items can be brought to the church at any time and placed in the



bin labeled **"SHARE & CARE"** located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther's Place). Thank you!

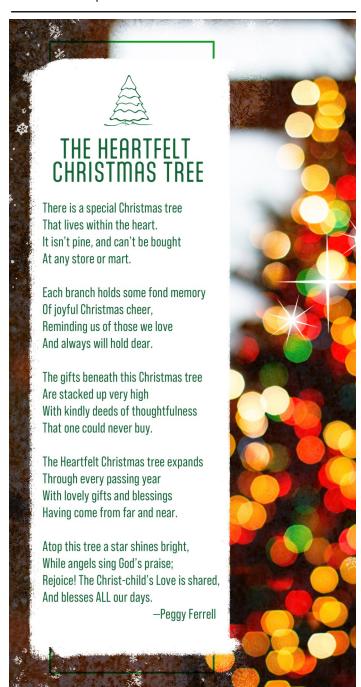


# December 11 -Christmas Social & Member Photos

Join us as members share their favorite slides and digital photos

with the group. This is our holiday social, so please bring a plate of holiday treats to share after the program. Drinks will be provided.

Please note: Social gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. Program starts at 7:00 p.m.



#### **Aluminum Can Collection**

The church continues to collect aluminum cans for recycling. Please bring the aluminum cans (rinsed & flattened) to the church weekdays during church



office hours, or bring them along to church, Sunday School, or any other church function. A container for them is located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther's Place).

# Medical **Equipment & Supplies**

We have a small lending "library" of equipment and new medical supplies

that are available for use by members of Holy Trinity. Some of the items include: wheelchairs, shower chairs, medical bed, pads for beds, adult diapers, and more. These items are available at no cost to you. If you have a need or would like to donate an item, please contact the Church Office at 717-273-8567.









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Scan the code with your phones camera!





- 1 Sharon Widel 322 Taylor Street Lebanon, PA 17042
- 2 Samuel Kaylor (celebrating his 10th birthday) 307 Lehman Street Lebanon, PA 17046
- 6 Guy Lintner 1943 West Cumberland Street Lebanon, PA 17042
- 8 Elizabeth Hershey 615 Bollman Street Lebanon, PA 17042
- 10 Kathy Bishop 365 Oaklyn Road Lebanon, PA 17042

Emersyn Young (celebrating her 12th birthday) 54 Wheatfield Circle Lebanon. PA 17042

11 - John Kost 112 Oaken Way Myerstown, PA 17067

> Adaline Lamason (celebrating her 3rd birthday) 605 East Evergreen Road Lebanon, PA 17042

- 14 David Hitz 698 Zinn's Mill Road Lebanon, PA 17042
- 15 Carol Warlow 585 South Lincoln Avenue Lebanon, PA 17402
- 17 Melanie Eisenhauer 1515 North 7th Street Lebanon, PA 17046

- 20 Thomas Gainer 1373 Sholly Avenue Lebanon, PA 17046
- 22 Jeremy Bullock 326 Kauffman Road Annville, PA 17003
- 24 Renee Hunter 450 West Penn Avenue Cleona, PA 17042

Donna Schreiber 477 Old Mine Road Lebanon, PA 17042

- 26 Carroll Kercher 90 Pier Place Lebanon, PA 17046
- 28 Alizah Engle (celebrating her 15th birthday) c/o Jean & Preston Darkes 124 South 22nd Street Lebanon, PA 17042
- 30 James C. Logan 143 Laurel Drive Fredericksburg, PA 17026
- 31 Richard Hollinger 1031 Alden Way Lebanon, PA 17042

Isabella Johnson-Rodriguez (celebrating her 13th birthday) 35 Canal Street Lebanon, PA 17046





# **Lectionary Readings**

# Sunday, December 1

1st Sunday of Advent Jeremiah 33:14 - 16

Psalm 25:1 - 10

1 Thessalonians 3:9 - 13

Luke 21:25 - 36

# Sunday, December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1 - 4

Luke 1:68 - 79

Philippians 1:3 - 11

Luke 3:1 - 6

# Sunday, December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14 - 20

Isaiah 12:2 - 6

Philippians 4:4 - 7

Luke 3:7 - 18

# Sunday, December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2 - 5a

Luke 1:46b - 55

Hebrews 10:5 - 10

Luke 1:39 - 45, [46 - 55]

# Sunday, December 24

Nativity of Our Lord 1: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11 - 14

Luke 2:1 - 14, [15 - 20]

# Sunday, December 29

1st Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18 - 20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12 - 17

Luke 2:41 - 52

# Sunday, January 5

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7 - 14

Psalm 147:12 - 20

Ephesians 1:3 - 14

John 1:[1 - 9] 10 - 18





