

Christ the Savior
is born!

HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
FESTIVAL LITURGY OF CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2025
9:00 P.M.

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

Asterisk () indicates that worshipers should please stand as able.*

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold** typeface.*

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.

The worship livestream begins 10 minutes before the service.

GATHERING

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

TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

Please be seated in prayerful silence during the prelude, which begins our worship together.

PRELUDE

Deacon Ned Perwo & the Christmas Brass Quintet

German Carol Fantasy

-Diane Bish

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

-J.S. Bach

Cradle Song

-Edvard Grieg

Alleluia

-J.S. Bach

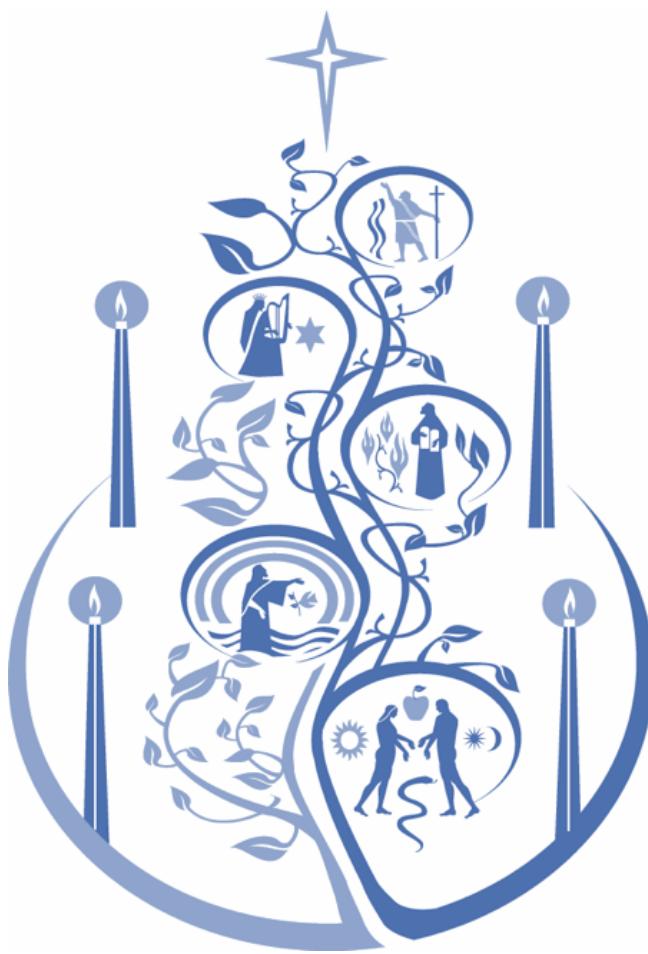
Fanfare on 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

-Robert Hobby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary V. Farnham

*PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the

anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

*GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

*GREETING

Today Christ is born: alleluia, alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory Be To God On High

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time and G major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics for this section are:

Glo - ry be to God on high,
Je - sus Christ, we now de-clare
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,
To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,
Prai - ses sing in high - estheav'n; To the Fath - er

The second staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics for this section are:

draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.

The third staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics for this section are:

Glo - - - - - ri - a

1. in ex - cel - sis De - o! 2. in ex - cel - sis De o!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

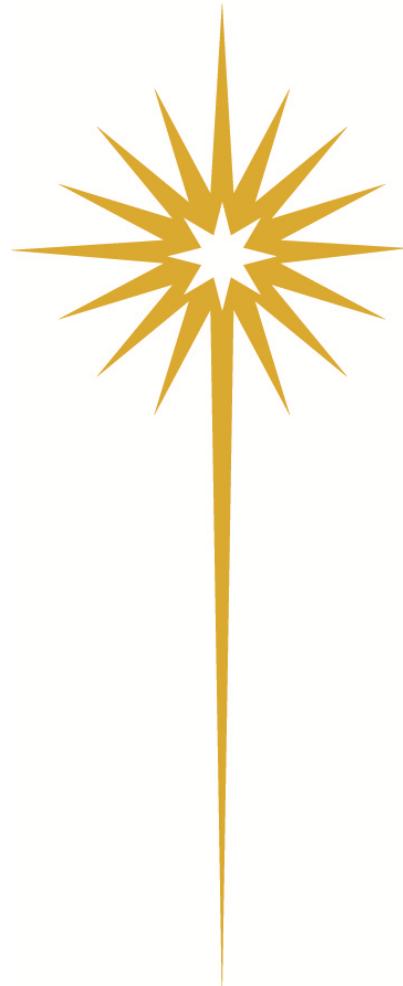
This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.



⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; authority rests
upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his
kingdom. He will establish and uphold
it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and
forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of
hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM 96

Let the heav'ns rejoice, and the earth be glad!

Let the heav'ns rejoice, and the earth be glad!

tone: ADESTE FIDE LIS

¹Sing to the Lord | a new song;

 sing to the Lord, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations

 and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods. R

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
 but you O Lord, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
 ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R



Let the heav'ns rejoice, and the earth be glad!

Let the heav'ns rejoice, and the earth be glad!

tone: ADESTE FIDELIS

⁹Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your com- | ing O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**



SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:11–14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.

Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

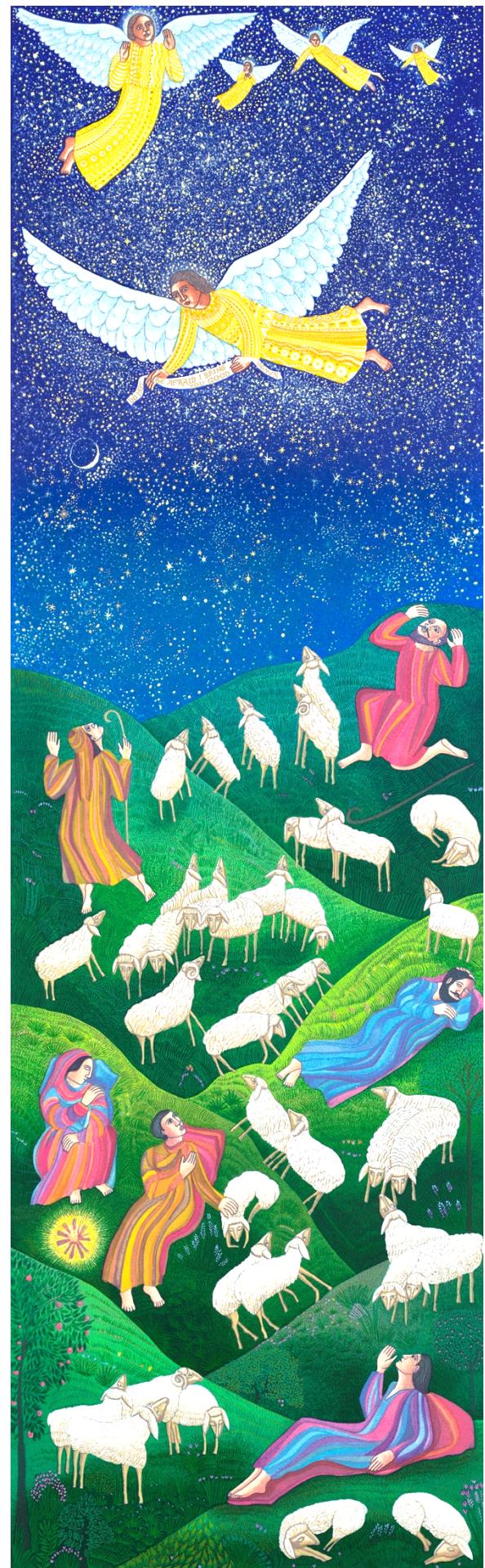
A reading from Titus, chapter 2.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

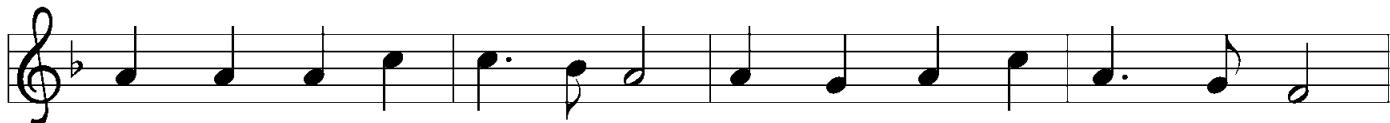
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

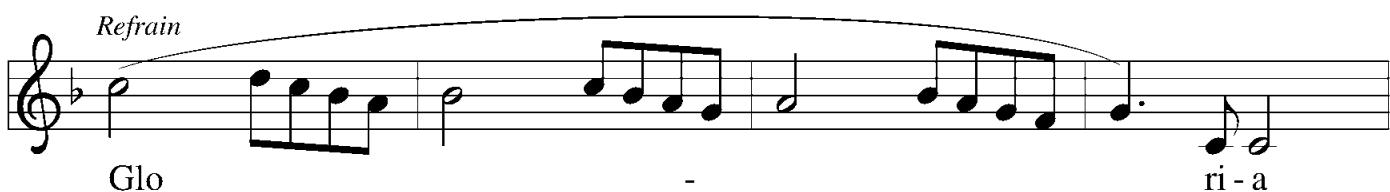
Angels We Have Heard on High



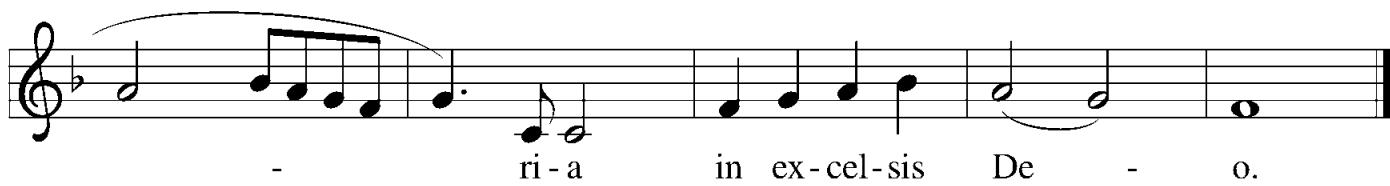
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav ?



in ex - cel - sis De - o;



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

*GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger.

Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 2.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Mary

TIME OF REFLECTION



*HYMN OF THE DAY

The First Noel

The musical score consists of five staves of music for voice and piano. The lyrics are integrated into the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a bass line and chords.

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin-ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .

cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

*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



Empowered by the news of Christ's birth,
let us pray boldly for the church, creation,
and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne.

Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it.

Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields,
and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war.

Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor.
Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another,
especially those who are sick or struggling.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and
clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth.

We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed.

Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus.

We give thanks for the lives of all who now enjoy the full presence of God,
including those for whom Christmas gifts have been given.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

[Presiding Minister]

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you,
O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus
Christ our Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Prince of Peace be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

(Scan To Give)



Our offering is an expression of thanks for God's love of us. We give with grateful hearts, aware that many gifts are given **to** us in order to pass **through** us to others! As faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us, our generosity as a faith family makes a difference- beneath our steeple, in our community, in our Synod, within the ELCA, and around this world God loves so very much.

~The Stewardship Team~

Please pass the Friendship Registers at this time.

OFFERTORY

The Holy Trinity Choir



On Christmas Night
-Arr. by Lani Smith

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our holy Savior's birth.

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
angels and men full well may sing, all is due to our newborn King.

From out of darkness we have light, which makes the angels sing this
night, from out of darkness we have light, which makes the angels sing
this night: "Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore.
Amen. Now and forevermore. Amen."

*OFFERTORY HYMN

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW

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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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:

*SANCTUS

Intro (first time only)

All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Bles - sed is the one who came,

God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;
bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes

all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo -

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo -

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both 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.

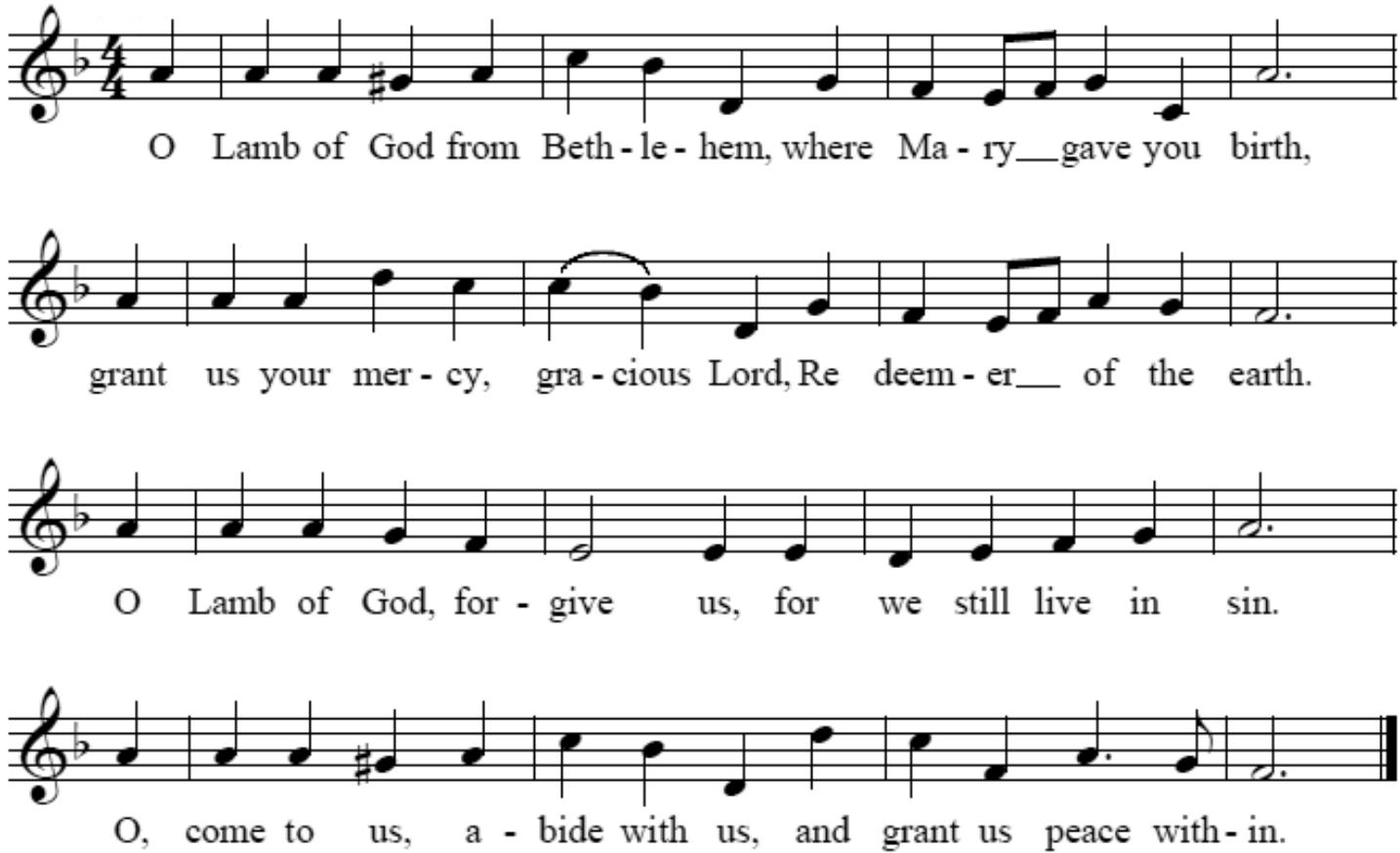
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

All baptized Christians who believe the Lord is truly present in this sacrament are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communicants file forward from the center aisle. They receive the consecrated host, then choose either a prefilled cup of consecrated red wine or consecrated white grape juice from the tray held by Communion assistant. Communicants place used glass in separate tray and then return to their seats by the side aisles. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

AGNUS DEI



O Lamb of God from Beth - le - hem, where Ma - ry gave you birth,
grant us your mer - cy, gra - cious Lord, Re deem - er of the earth.
O Lamb of God, for - give us, for we still live in sin.
O, come to us, a - bide with us, and grant us peace with - in.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Carols of the Season -Traditional

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING

***SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-5**

A reading from the Gospel according to St. John, chapter 1.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



*HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night!

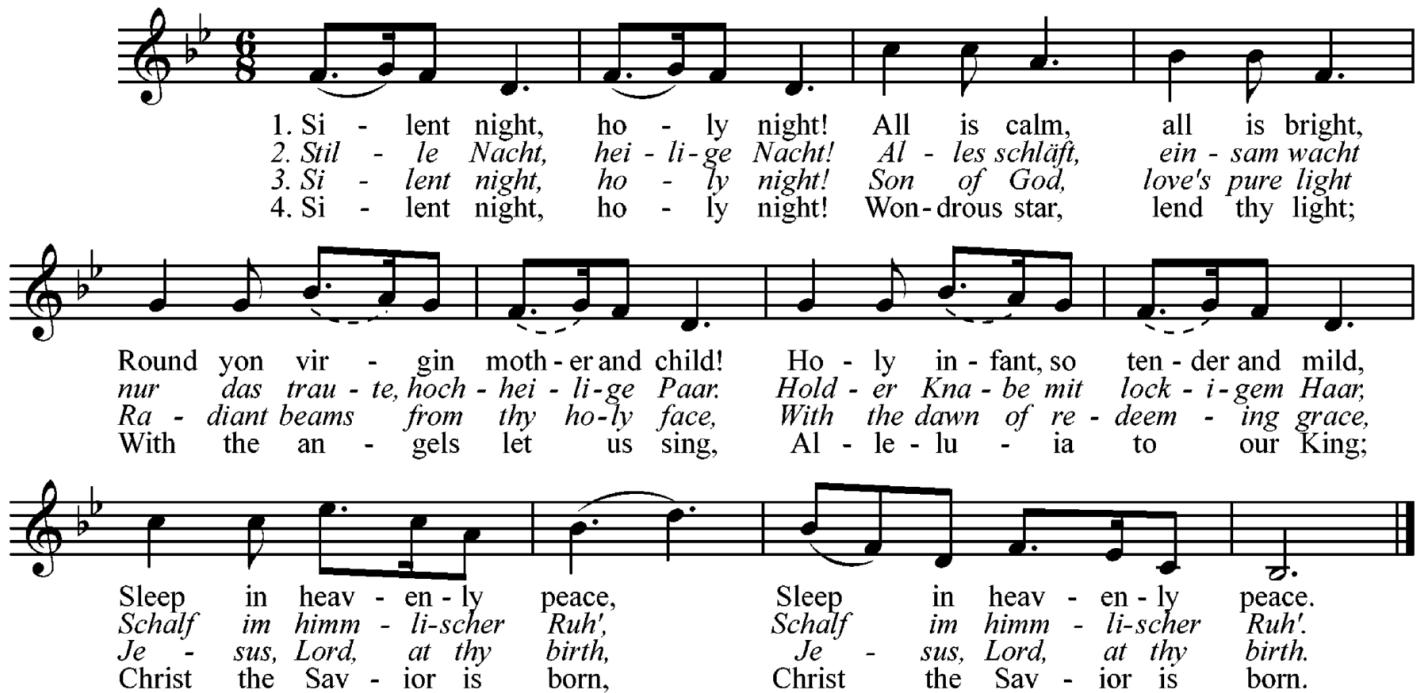
(Choir sings stanza 2. All sing stanzas 1, 3, and 4.)

Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

Sts. 1 and 3 *Tr.* John F. Young, 1820-85

St. 4 *Tr.*, anon.

Franz Gruber, 1787-1863



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright,
 2. Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar. Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar;
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 With the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Schalf im himm - li-scher Ruh', Schalf im himm - li-scher Ruh'.
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.



SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

Pastor Mary

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,

☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.



*SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

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

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Deacon Ned Perwo & the Christmas Brass Quintet

Hodie Christus Natus Est

-Giovanni Gabrieli

“Thank You” to Our Musicians

The Holy Trinity Choir

The Christmas Brass Quintet

Trumpets: Evan Judson & Bart Healy

Horn: Jessie Mersinger Trombone: Dave Attilio Tuba: Mark Montanari

Deacon Ned Perwo, Director of Music Ministry

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr | Friday, December 26, 2025

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist | Saturday, December 27, 2025

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs | Sunday, December 28, 2025

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus | Thursday, January 1, 2026

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Friday, January 2, 2026

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Announcements

LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP:

Wed. 7 a.m.; Sat. 5 p.m.; Sun. 8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**Visit our website for solutions to gather remotely,
including downloadable orders of worship.**

www.holytrinity-elca.org

Livestream Worship: click WORSHIP > LIVESTREAM

Church Calendar of Events: click EVENTS

Items of Interest and Information: click NEWS

THE NURSERY is located under the narthex (rear of the sanctuary) and accessed via the descending staircase. Nursery is available to all families who wish to use it; families are asked to supervise their own children--there is no designated nursery attendant. Video from the sanctuary can be viewed on the nursery TV. Turn it on using the TV remote, wait for it to boot up and select "HDMI 1" for the video feed. Audio from the sanctuary can be heard through the nursery speakers. Please do not adjust TV volume.

Please note: children are **always** welcomed in worship!

Eternal Light, Bread & Wine and Bulletins are given to the glory of God by John Cooney in loving memory of his sister, Jean, and in honor of her birthday.

LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE: THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Signing the friendship register tells us you were present and gives you a chance to provide or update contact info. Please share your e-mail address to receive on-line updates about HT happenings. Our Holy Trinity constitution requires that active confirmed members receive Holy Communion and make a "contribution of record" at least once every other year. Using an offering envelope from the pew ensures that your gift is properly credited. Visitors, please sign the friendship register, phone or e-mail us!

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 7 Join us at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays in the new year to preview, learn about and discuss the upcoming weekend's Gospel. On January 7 we'll study Matthew 3:13-17, the baptism of our Lord, and also discuss our Lutheran understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Pastor Mary leads the discussion.

JUSTICE & PEACE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Kill the Indian in him, and save the man"? This famous quote is from an 1892 speech given by Captain Richard Pratt. It expresses the philosophy central to the development of Christian boarding schools for Indigenous children across the U.S. and in Canada. Their aim was to "civilize" and, within the continental United States, to "Americanize" the Indian. To learn more about this heartbreak portion of our history, you are invited to join the Holy Trinity Justice and Peace Advocacy Team in collaboration with the Manasquan Quaker Meetinghouse and Trinity Episcopal Church of Asbury Park for a screening of the documentary, *Sugarcane*, on **Saturday, January 10, at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall**. The film tells the story of the 2021 discovery of unmarked graves on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. "After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation, and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities." "Accumulating immense emotional powers as it methodically uncovers a grave injustice, *Sugarcane* is one of the most compelling and important documentaries of the year."



Please join us in Holy Trinity's Fellowship Hall on January 10 for a screening and brief discussion of the film.

Please RSVP with the QR code or online under EVENTS.

HEALING SERVICE:

Please join us on **Thurs., Jan., 22 at 11 a.m.** Our healing service includes



Scripture, song, prayer, lighting of candles, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and Holy Communion. An assisting minister and ushers are needed. Please sign with the QR code, online under EVENTS or through the church office.

HEALING SERVICE LUNCHEON:



Social Ministry will be hosting a luncheon in Fellowship Hall following the Jan. 22 healing service. Please RSVP for the luncheon with the QR code, online under EVENTS or through the church office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Join us on Sunday, January 25 immediately following 8:45 a.m. worship (approximately 9:45 a.m.). Please note: there will be only one worship service on Jan. 25; we will worship at 5 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 24, as usual. There will be no Sunday School on Jan. 25; however, there will be an activity for children whose parents attend the meeting. If weather prevents the meeting from taking place on Jan. 25, it will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 1, following 8:45 a.m. worship. Should this occur, we'll send an eblast and leave word on the HT website homepage.

A quorum (15%) of voting members is required to conduct the meeting; for us this is 75 persons. The meeting agenda will include voting on the budget, election of Council, Nominating Committee, and Endowment Committee members.

INTERESTED IN HELPING TO COUNT THE WEEKLY

OFFERING? The Finance Team is scheduling weekly offering counters for 2026 and is seeking additional members who are willing to serve. The count takes place each Sunday following 8:45 a.m. worship. The commitment includes approximately six Sundays a year of volunteering. (We are flexible.) You will be teamed up with another member of HT, so it is a great way to get to know other members. If you are interested in hearing more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Ralph Jensen at Ralphjensen@aol.com.

ONE WARM COAT: We will continue to collect coats through January, so those who receive new coats through December can donate the ones they no longer use. We make sure they go to organizations that supply warm coats to those in need.

540 HT INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS! Way to go, Holy Trinity! Spread the word! You can officially follow us @holytrinity_squan. Please email any photos you'd like to submit for posting to instagram@holytrinity-elca.org.

MANASQUAN MINISTERIUM FOOD PANTRY: As we turn the page to a new year, the Pantry volunteers would like to thank you for all the support you have given throughout 2025. Without you, we would not be able to continue this ministry about which we feel so passionate. We wish you and your loved ones a joyous, faith-filled new year.

Do you or someone you know need confidential assistance from our community food pantry?

Please call (732) 223-0898 to contact the ecumenical food pantry located on the lower level of Manasquan Presbyterian Church (South St. and Virginia Ave.).

{Or...do you need assistance and live in Brick or Point? Contact St. Thomas Lutheran Church Food Pantry at (732) 477-5533.}



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Reconciling In Christ Congregation

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’ (Matthew 25:35).

Since our founding over 100 years ago, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church has striven to extend its welcome to include all people, offering holy hospitality through ministries of caring, compassion, service and social justice. As a continuation and natural outgrowth of our welcome to all who seek God’s love and grace, we are committed to affirming and embracing people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, races and ethnicities, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We are committed to eliminating racism in all its forms and to racial equity. As Jesus welcomed us, so we, as members of Holy Trinity’s faith family, are ever mindful to joyfully and unconditionally welcome all.

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 6 Osborn Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736

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Music Ministry
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Youth & Family Ministry
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Church Telephone Number
(732) 223-0533

Church Office Hours

M-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. (closed 12-1 for lunch); closed Friday

Church Website: www.holytrinity-elca.org

NJ Synod Website: www.njsynod.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Website: www.elca.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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