

THE PIPER

DECEMBER 24/25/31, 2022, JANUARY 1, 2023



Trinity Lutheran Church

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State College, PA 16803

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/TrinityLutheranSC/>



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

12:00 pm Noon - Worship with Communion

3:00 pm - Family Worship with Communion

5:00 pm - Family Worship with Communion

7:00 pm - Candlelight Worship with Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am - Celebration of the Nativity with
Communion

NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00 pm - Worship with Communion

NEW YEAR'S DAY

10:00 am - Worship with Communion



From the Pastor's Desk



Christmas 2022

Dear Beloved of God.

We all have our favorite Christmas songs, traditions and practices. For a time, I personally, found some of the newer Christmas songs less than enjoyable. That said, of late, there are some songs I find quite appropriate and enjoyable. Consider the words of this one by John Lennon:

So this is Christmas
And what have you done?
Another year over
And a new one just begun

And so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear one
The old and the young

A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

No doubt you've heard it, and it has a bit of a melancholic feel to it. Of course, the first Christmas story has some melancholic threads through it. In Matthew, when Joseph discovers that Mary is pregnant with someone else's child he decides to divorce her—quietly, though, so as to protect her from public disgrace (Mt. 1:19). Only when an angel intervened in one of his dreams did he change his mind and marry her, nonetheless, even naming her Child, Jesus, as per his angelic instructions (1:25). Melancholy was changed to joy or at least wonder, perhaps? Who knows, for Joseph faced some major challenges in embarking on what God wanted him to do.

The Magi come from the East and when they speak with Herod, he and all Judah are frightened that a new king has been born. Not terribly exciting news in that if Herod pursues military action against this new king, civilians will be injured or killed. Not a pleasant Christmas thought.

Then there's the Christmas story in Luke, where Mary is the main character. In Luke we have "shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night" (2:8). I enjoy camping, but living in fields with no amenities at all? No thank you!!! Can't imagine what that was like, and yet their hardship paid amazing dividends. An angel appears in the darkness with an unbelievable pronouncement:

"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!" (2:10b-14)

As the song continues:

And so this is Christmas
For weak and for strong
For rich and the poor ones
The world is so wrong

And so happy Christmas
For black and for white
For yellow and red ones
Let's stop all the fight

A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear

The amazing part of the Christmas story is that God chose to enter our world in an amazing way, becoming one of us, a human being. A story that is for the "weak and the strong" the "rich and the poor," regardless of the color of our skin. That is, a story for all of us!

Yes, life has its times of melancholy for all of us and yet, it's to us, God comes in the form of a child born in Bethlehem during a time of occupation and conflict—a child born of peace and love. This Child brings us hope despite our melancholy, our doubts and our fears, in the midst of conflict and struggle.

So, a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, let's hope it's a good one without any fear." Amen and amen!

May God bless you and your loved ones with a very merry Christmas and a New Year that is filled with joy, hope and happiness!

Peace, joy and love,

Pastor Ron

Pastor Ron



Readings 12/25/22

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 96

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

Readings 1/1/23

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

Host Families Needed for Students from Italy

One of our members, John Waters, is looking for people who may be interested in hosting some medical students from the University of Bologna (Italy) this February while they participate in a conference organized by Penn State's Eberly College of Science, the Department of Biology, and the College of Medicine. Students will be attending classes, workshops, and other activities during their visit from Saturday, February 11th to Monday, February 20th, 2023 (9 nights). While the students will be busy most of the day, the host families provide an opportunity for students to experience the culture of our community in a home setting.

If you think you may be interested, please review the information and guidelines page John has shared. <https://sites.psu.edu/unibo2psu/hostguidelines/>

We are very excited to be working with you. Please send John a note if you have any questions (johnwaters@psu.edu).



TRINITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 am Zumba

12:00 pm Worship w/Communion

3:00 pm Worship w/Communion

5:00 pm Family Worship w/Communion

7:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 am Worship w/Communion

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 am Zumba

5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

10:00 am Worship w/Communion

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

5:30 pm Executive Team Meeting

5:45 pm Zumba

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

5:45 pm Zumba

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

10:00 am Zumba

5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

8:15 am Worship w/Communion

9:30 am Worship w/Communion/Sunday School

10:45 am Worship w/Communion

YouTube Worship Service Recorded

11:45 am Deeper Waters

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Jerry Wion, Dee Kiel, Linda Leslie, Brenda Whitmer, Barb Roberts, Jeff Gonet, Laurie Smith, Jean Ross

TLC FRIENDS

Rita Shetler, Rich, Brian, Eileen, Charley, Carla, Kris

A Little Christmas Humor



Dear Lord,
As I rest my head tonight,
I pray that during these
trying times, You bless each
person and surround them
with Your love and protection.

Remind us that even in
our darkest hour, You are
always with us. Amen 🙏