

THE PIPER



DECEMBER 23/24 & 30/31, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church

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



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24H

8:15 am & 10:00 am

Worship with Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 pm

Family Worship with Communion

7:00 pm

Candlelight Worship with Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am

Celebration of the Nativity with Communion

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Beloved of God,

What does Christmas mean to you? By that I mean, what are your favorite parts of the holiday? For many, it's the Christmas tree and decorations, for others the Christmas cookies and other goodies, for still others the Christmas dinner with family and friends gathered around. Some look forward to the Christmas worship service with the Candle Lighting and singing Silent Night. Many people look forward to the Christmas carols that begin being broadcast as of November 1. We all have our favorite parts of Christmas.

So, when I received a text from a member asking if we were going to go Christmas Caroling, I groaned, sorry to say! I already had a full schedule, but I took it to be a message from God through Peggy Smith and began thinking about how we might go caroling. The problem with traditional caroling—going from house to house singing a few songs for the occupants—does not work well for us. Our homebound folks live all across Centre County and trying to get to them means spending most of the time in our cars driving from one place to another and doing precious little singing!

So, this year, I thought we would simply go to one of the local retirement communities. I have been developing a relationship with Harmony House where two Trinity members reside. I also lead worship there the first Sunday of each month. We could have lunch after worship and gather at the center to sing while the residents finish lunch. It worked out way beyond my expectations: 25 people showed up for lunch and then sang at Harmony House; we sounded amazing; and, of course, the residents loved the whole event. We sang for about a half hour and while they were not all TLC members, we touched a large community of people. I think we all were warmed by the experience. Thanks to Megan Orient who took some pictures of us, and you can find them elsewhere in this issue of the Weekly Piper.

Whatever you like about Christmas all of our Christmas traditions are based on the Story of Christmas, as Luke tells us:

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

My thanks to all those who were able to go Christmas Caroling, doing so added so much more to my Christmas cheer than I thought was possible. My prayer for you and yours is that you have a most blessed Christmas Holiday! "Christ the Savior is born!"

Love, joy and peace,

Pastor Ron

Pastor Ron





Christmas Caroling
At Harmony House
On Sunday,
December 17th
What a great group of
singers!!



Readings 12/24 Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-28

Readings 12/24 Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Readings 12/25

Zechariah 2:10-13
Psalm 97
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36

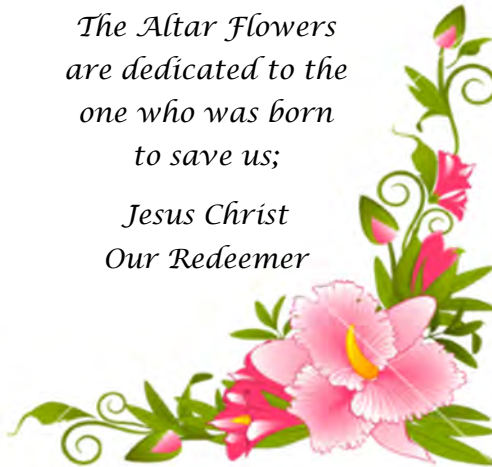
Readings 12/31

Isaiah 61:10 -62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40



*The Altar Flowers
are dedicated to the
one who was born
to save us;*

*Jesus Christ
Our Redeemer*



TRINITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

10:00 am Zumba
5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:15 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Worship w/Communion
3:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service
7:00 Candlelight Worship
w/Communion

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Worship w/Communion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

5:45 pm Zumba

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

5:45 pm Zumba

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

10:00 am Zumba - CANCELLED
5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:15 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Worship w/Communion

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

5:30 pm Executive Team

5:45 pm Zumba

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

5:45 pm Zumba

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY

10:00 am Zumba
5:00 pm Worship w/Communion
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
8:15 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Worship w/Communion
w/Children's Church
11:00 am Deeper Waters Class

This is a 2 week newsletter.

The church office is closed between Christmas and New Years Day. All emails and voice mails will be answered on January 2nd when we are back in the office.

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Linda Leslie, Brenda Whitmer, Barb Roberts, Elaine Burn, Donna Weller, Nancy Owens, Joan Kimerer, Kay Trostle

TLC FRIENDS

Rita Shetler, Katie, Josh Potter, Patrick, Patricia, Joe Bitner, PJ Brady, Jonathan Fetter, Shirley Pillot, Marlene, Ruth, Vincent

(All names will be removed from the prayer list next week.)

In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels
say to the shepherds,



Glory to God IN THE
HIGHEST HEAVEN,
and peace to God's people
ON EARTH.

At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right. Nevertheless, we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring." We pray for peace in our world and in our communities. Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace. We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle. Some may walk to other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor. "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you." We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us. In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elysiun L. Eaton



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America