

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

537 GRAND AVENUE

BILLINGS, MONTANA

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2022

Worship – 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00pm

### AS WE GATHER

“All is calm, all is bright.” Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn “Silent Night, Holy Night” every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: these are anything but calm and bright. Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity’s ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. “Glory to God in the highest,” sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, “and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God’s self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

*An unattended nursery is available for you and your child if needed.  
Please do not leave children alone in the nursery.*

### + PREPARATION +

**HYMN**

***“O Come, All Ye Faithful”***

#379

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *Luke 2:10–12, 14*

Pastor: To shepherds filled with fear, the angel said,

**People: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.”**

Pastor: To those shepherds and to us this holy night, the angel declares,

**People: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”**

Pastor: To all who seek signs of God’s peace in this broken world, the angel proclaims,

**People: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”**

Pastor: To our world, so filled with uncertainty, confusion, and fear, the multitude of angels sings,

**People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Pastor: Friends in Christ, take heart! Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” Real peace comes from forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ; grant that as we joyfully receive the Word made flesh as our Redeemer, we may one day with sure confidence behold the Son of Righteousness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## **PROCLAMATION**

*John 1:1-5; Isaiah 40:9*

Pastor: 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 were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

**RESPONSE**    *"Once in Royal David's City"*    #376    (2:00pm)

*"O Holy Night"*                    *Solo by Jennifer Boll*    (4:00pm)

*"O Holy Night"*                    *Solo by Ashley Speed*    (6:00pm)

**FIRST READING**    *(Mary)*

*Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the

Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**RESPONSE**     *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*     #356

**SECOND READING**     *(The Infant Jesus)*     **Luke 2:1–7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**RESPONSE**     *“Away in a Manger”*     #364

**THIRD READING**     *(Shepherds)*     **Luke 2:8–12**

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

**RESPONSE**     *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*     #368

**FOURTH READING** (*Angels*)**Luke 2:13-14**

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

**RESPONSE*****“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

#380

**FIFTH READING***(The Shepherds)***Luke 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**RESPONSE*****“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”***

#366

**SIXTH READING*****Isaiah 9:6-7***

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**RESPONSE*****“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”***

#374

**SERMON*****“The Real Meaning of Christmas”******Luke 2:1-20*****OFFERING****OFFERING HYMN: “Joy to the World”** #387 (2pm & 6pm)*Trinity Cathedral Choir “Christ, Our Emmanuel”* (4pm)**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

**P:** The almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C:** **Amen! Glory to God in the highest! Peace to His people on earth!**

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*(Pastor will light the candles of ushers, who will light the candles of people sitting by the aisles. They, in turn, light those next to them, tipping **unlit** candles toward lit ones. Lights will be extinguished as the candlelight increases.)*

*While the candles are being lit, we sing-*

## HYMN                    **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** (2pm & 6pm)

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
3. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*Trinity Cathedral Choir “Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming” (4pm)*

*After the candles are lit, we sing –*

**HYMN**

***“Silent Night, Holy Night”***

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Extinguish your candles after the hymn and leave the candles (both real candles & battery candles) with the ushers as you leave. Thank you.*

***Please join us tomorrow morning at 10:00am  
for Christmas Day Worship with Communion.***



<u>PREACHING:</u>	Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht
<u>LITURGIST:</u>	Rev. Daniel Keinath
<u>ELDERS:</u>	Neal Wagenman (2pm) Rob Reeves (4pm) Mark Wollenburg (6pm)
<u>ACOLYTES:</u>	Grace Keller (2pm) Conner Magnuson (4pm) Olivia Hunt (6pm)
<u>ORGANISTS:</u>	Mr. Ted Kober (2pm) Mr. Nicolas Harding (4 & 6pm) Trinity Cathedral Choir (4pm)
<u>CHOIR:</u>	
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR:</u>	Mr. Nicolas Harding
<u>MUSICIANS:</u>	Trinity Occasional Orchestra (4pm)
<u>SOLOISTS:</u>	Jenn Boll (4pm) Ashley Speed (6pm)
<u>SOUND:</u>	Ethan Thornton (2pm) Josh Nichols (4pm) Ray Koschel (6pm)
<u>VIDEO:</u>	Shared Duty (2pm)
<u>ALTAR DUTY:</u>	Shared Duty

## *Knowing Christ and Making Him Known*

### **THIS WEEK AT TRINITY – December 24 & 25, 2022**

Saturday: 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm *Christmas Eve Worship Services*

Sunday: 10:00am *Christmas Day Worship with Communion*

***Monday & Tuesday: Church Office Closed***

Saturday: 5:00pm *New Year's Eve Worship Service*  
8:00pm *New Year's Lock-In for Youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up*

Sunday: 10:00am *New Year's Day Worship*  
11:00am *De-decorating and Donuts!*

***2023 Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the side classroom.***

**Thank you** to the following members who bought poinsettias to adorn our altar this Christmas:

***Kathryn Adams***

*In memory of Paul Kemp*

***Gene Allard***

*In memory of Gene's mom Ruth Allard*

***Susan Bohl and Justin Hettinger***

*In memory of their parents and grandparents who have gone before*

***Brenda Brockett***

*In memory of her beloved grandmother, May Swanser*

***Jim & Cam Browne***

*In memory of Cam's parents, Rev. Herb and Fran Schiefelbein*

*and brother, Rev. Dennis Schiefelbein &*

*In memory of Jim's parents, Bob and Sue Browne*

*and brother, Tom Browne*

***The Campbell Family***

*In memory of Ron Meyer and Louise Meyer*

***Ken & Sandy Collier***

*In memory of their granddaughters Megan & Madison Nygaard*

***Carol Corder***

*In memory of her mom and grandma*

***Lew and Connie Dunning***

*In memory of their parents*

***Tom & Angie Ebel***

***Doug and Maria Erickson***

*In memory of Doug's Dad, George Erickson*

***Danielle Gulbrandson***

*In memory of Claudia Cornell*

***Phyllis Hansen***

*In memory of James Hansen*

***Tanya Hensel, Nicole Schriver, Troy Nygaard and their families***

*In memory of David Nygaard*

**Deborah Hudson and Wyatt**  
*In memory of Papa and Mr. & Mrs. Sundberg*

**Tom and Marge Hunt**  
*Given in praise and glory to God*

**Janet Hutton**  
*In memory of Ramona Lehenbauer*

**Arlen & Yvonne Kammerzell**  
*In loving memory of our parents - George & Clara Kammerzell and Jacob & Stella Loran*

**Pam & Paul Kercher**  
*In memory of Pam's mother, Helen Prosenick and Paul's parents, Les & Renae Kercher*

**Wayne & Connie Klundt**  
*In memory of their parents and B.J.'s Dad, Kenny Shaw*

**The McCoy Family**

**Sherrie Murray**  
*In memory of her parents, Adolph and Agnes Heimbeck*

**Noah & Abby Oloff**  
*In memory of Abby's Grandmother, Sharon Hansz and nephew John Andrew Lee Hansz*

**Karen Oset**  
*In memory of loved ones*

**Bill & Carol Pfau**

**Pastor and Cathy Rinderknecht**  
*In thanksgiving for their 5 granddaughters Paige, Brooke, Morgan, Natalia, and Anastasia*

**Margaret Skoog**  
*In memory of Dennis Skoog*

**Lucile Smelser**  
*In memory of Leland Smelser*

**Carl and Jan Solberg**  
*In honor of their parents Thelma & Dale Hames and Olga & Albert Solberg*

*Grace Swift*  
*In memory of Hal & Delia Boskill*

*Mary Uecker*  
*In memory of George & Martha Wollenburg and Jim Uecker*

*Bill and Ronna Voges*  
*In memory of grandmother Hulda Weil, Father Larry Jeweet, and  
Father Don Voges*

*Leo and Diana Wohler*  
*In memory of Darlene Wohler Larson*

**RETIREMENT PARTY FOR PASTOR RINDERKNECHT:**

All are invited to join us for a retirement celebration for Pastor Rinderknecht on Sunday, February 19, at 12:30pm at Trinity School. More details about this gathering will be coming in January!

**MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORKE:** The Congregation is invited to attend a special meeting with President Forke about the call process on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**CHURCH PAINTING:** The interior of the church will be painted beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE:**

We recently started a long-range planning process to seek the Lord's direction on our next season of ministry. In the coming months the planning committee will be seeking your input about future ministry at Trinity. Please take time to be involved in these important discussions and share your thoughts about where the Lord is calling us!

**GOD'S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS TO US!**

As the year draws to a close, we encourage you to take time to thank God for His abundant blessings in 2022! Here are a few of His many blessings at Trinity this past year: God's faithfulness to His promises in Scripture, record enrollment (305!) at Trinity School, hosting this year's Montana District Convention, 230 kiddos and 80 helpers for our Vacation Bible School, an amazing National Youth Gathering in July, a wonderful week of service and ministry in Muddy Cluster, a fantastic Rally Day and Ministry Fair in September, a youth center full of high schoolers and helpers each Monday for our Senior High lunches, 33 new confirmed members at Trinity, and so many more! We thank the Lord for His work, presence, and blessings among us.