

**Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Carols
and Holy Communion**



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

East Berlin, Pennsylvania

December 24, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate the birth of Christ with us tonight! Whether you are a regular worshiper, a first-time guest, a new resident, or just visiting, we're glad you are with us.

We, at Trinity, are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ known while loving and serving God and our neighbors. Together we Worship, Serve and Celebrate! We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and everyone is welcome in this community of faith.

Our church is filled with people from all walks of life and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have many active ministries and programs, to include:

- worship Sundays & Wednesdays, both in-person and online
- faith formation opportunities, such as Sunday School for all ages (10:30 am) & Bible study on Mondays at 6:00 pm via Zoom.
- musical programs such as adult and children's choirs & handbells
- youth programs such as Teen Time bible study & activities
- social ministries such as Laundry Love, hosting the Food Pantry each month, and our Sharing Shelf for immediate needs
- mission trips to help others in need, both locally and afar
- fellowship events include an annual church picnic, Penny Carnival, ice cream social, Gingerbread House Workshop, coffee hours, and lots more!
- Please submit your contact info, especially email address, to be included in any future activities to secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org
- **YOU REALLY ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Worship: Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, 10:00a.m.

Office Phone: 717-259-9125

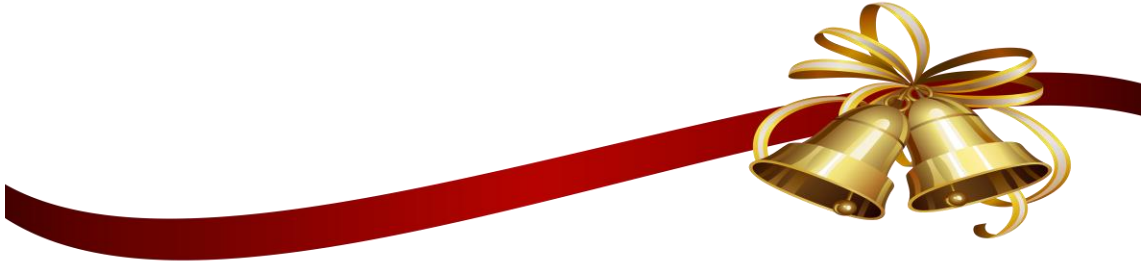
www.TrinityLutheranEB.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:45am – 11:45am, Friday 9am-1pm

Christmas Prelude Recital (Begins at 6:45pm)

*Angels from the Realms of Glory
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Edwin C. Johnson
Johann Pachelbel



Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

This worship service is a very child-friendly, family service and encourages children to worship in their own way as fully as they're able to. You are a child of God, so at any age you can be counted as a kid, especially on Christmas Eve. There will be a few hands-on elements in tonight's worship where the children will be invited forward to participate. Please feel free to join them!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN PARADE** *Angels We Have Heard on High* ELW 289

Children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary to receive parade streamers. As the hymn is sung, everyone is invited to participate as the parade makes a figure-8 around the sanctuary in celebration of the arrival of the Christ child.



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?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



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'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- 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

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The presiding minister greets the congregation, and the congregation responds.

P The grace of our incarnate Lord, the love of our Creator, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray...

Those gathered are invited to join their voices in prayer to the Lord.

C **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.**

Please be seated.



FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: “Your God reigns!” Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 (*Spoken Responsively*)

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 among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

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

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 honor and power.

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

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty 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 peoples 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 coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

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

SECOND LESSON – Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”* ELW 275

The hymn is sung as a prelude to the Gospel story. Gospel means “good news” and we always sing before hearing it!



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

***HOLY GOSPEL & SERMON: Luke 2:1-20 & Matthew 2:1-12**

The readings found here in the bulletin tell the most familiar parts of the Nativity story. Tonight, we'll hear them, not from these printed words, but from the Spark Story Bible, a children's version of these beloved words. Children are invited to come forward for the readings and to share in the telling of the story of Christ's birth by placing the figures of the Nativity Scene.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saints Luke & Matthew, the 2nd chapters.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Please be seated.

Luke 2:1-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

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.

Matthew 2:1-12

God’s promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem,

saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.





1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



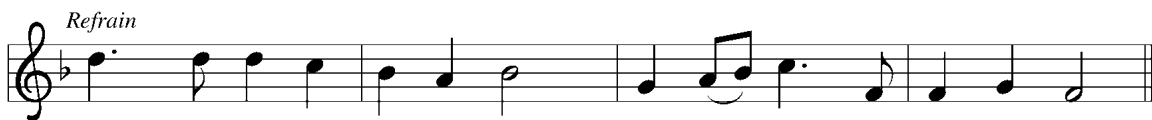
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

***APOSTLES' CREED**

We join our voices with Christians across the world to confess the faith in which we believe, the faith in which we are baptized, the faith from which our hope comes.

Let us profess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We come before God with praise and thanks to bring our concerns and seek God's blessing.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day, especially** *(pause for silent prayer)*.

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

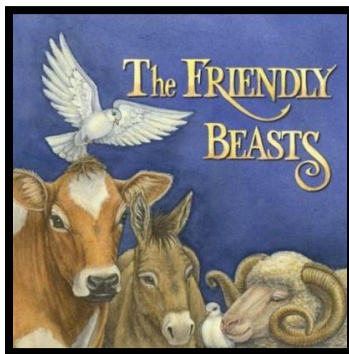
P The peace of the incarnate Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you**

Please take a moment to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING *"The Friendly Beasts"*

Trinity's Youth



OFFERING

We give and receive in relationship with God and with one another. Thank you for your gifts to the Body of Christ at Trinity! Your partnership in the gospel is needed and necessary as we work together to fulfill Christ's mission among us. Merry Christmas!

Please stand.

*OFFERTORY CAROL

"What Child Is This?"

ELW 296

The Offertory is sung as the Lord's Table is set.



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - 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?
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;
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!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

We pray as we make our offerings to God: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

A Let us pray....

C God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P 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 Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Nativity you have opened our eyes to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding God made visible in Jesus, we may be drawn to love you, too, when 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

This prayer and words tell the ancient story of Christ in the night in which he was handed over... when he shared his very self with his first disciples, in bread and in wine. Please listen in awe as we hear in this proclamation his invitation to us.

P Holy God, Creator of All and Source of life, at the birth of time you brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your sons and daughters.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, 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 therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored by him.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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

P Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

C Thanks be to God!

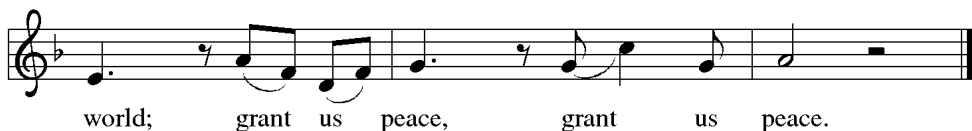
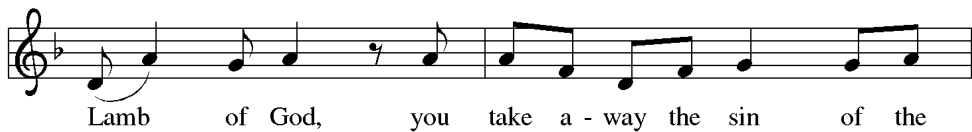
Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We are all invited to the Lord's Table; please make yourself at home. The pastor will offer direction for the distribution of the sacrament. Please note the following elements are available in addition to bread and wine: gluten-free wafers & pre-blessed, sealed wafer and grape juice packages.

COMMUNION HYMNS

The congregation is invited to sing during the distribution of Holy Communion. The hymns begin with:



COMMUNION HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” ELW 290

“In the Bleak Midwinter” ELW 294

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

A blessing and prayer are offered following the distribution of Holy Communion.

P The body and blood of our incarnate Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

P God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C Amen.

***CANDLELIGHTING**

The sharing of candlelight represents the spread of the Good News of Jesus as we disciples are called to share the Light of Christ with one another and the world. “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven,” we hear in our Baptism service.

Please keep the candles upright to avoid dripping wax. For the smallest among us battery operated candles are available. Please feel free to take your battery candle home as a Christmas gift – the Light of Christ! As the candles are lighted the following scripture will be read responsively.

DIALOGUE – A Responsive Reading from Isaiah Chapter 9.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

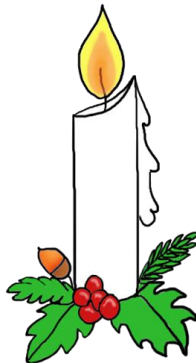
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Please keep your candles lit as we sing together “Silent Night, Holy Night.”



***CLOSING HYMN**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

ELW 281



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

***DISMISSAL**

A Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Hark the Herald, Angels Sing”

Neil Harmon

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! We hope that you will join us again for worship on Sunday at 9am. Our services may be found on Facebook or on YouTube by searching, “Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin,” or check out our website at www.trinitylutheraneb.org. Please complete a yellow/green visitor slip found in your row or you can submit your contact information to secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org to be invited to all our digital and in-person activities. **Merry Christmas!**

Sun. 12/25 @ 9:00 a.m.—A Festival of Lessons and Carols. We’ll gather Sunday morning to continue the Christmas celebration with scripture, singing and Holy Communion. Come in your PJs and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

Bible Study will not be held December 26 or January 2 but will resume on Mon, January 9.

2023 Offering Envelopes: The company who provides Trinity's giving envelopes is experiencing great difficulties in getting the orders out by the end of the year. They will be placed in the Narthex as soon as they arrive.

2023 Calendars given to Trinity by Feiser’s Funeral Home are available at all the entrances. Please take as many as you like! They are located around the church.

2023 Church Directory will be published and distributed in January. If you have any changes to your address, phone number(s) or email address, please notify Jen in the church office by January 3, 2023.

Church Office Closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.

Assisting in the Service this evening:

Presiding Minister	<i>Rev. Susan McCarthy</i>
Organist & Music Director	<i>Karen Wire</i>
Assisting Ministers	<i>Grace Warner & Addie Ryder</i>
Communion Helpers	<i>Jack & Charleigh Biles</i>
Lector	<i>Tristan Biles</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Mac & Janet McMaster, Sandy Emig, Mark Boyer, Jack & Kate Miller</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Ruthann Bowen</i>
Hymn Leaders	<i>Noelle Kline & Laura Ryder</i>
Acolyte	<i>Claire Warner</i>

