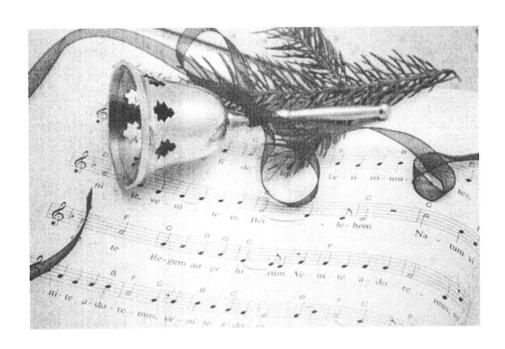
## Trinity Lutheran Church 300 West Arch Street Pottsville, Pa 17901

PHONE: (570) 622-9910 Fax: (570) 622-7451

E-MaiL: <u>tlccares@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com</u>



The Service of Lessons & Carols

December 30, 2023-December 31, 2023

6:00 pm Saturday 9:30 am Sunday

## **Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ORGAN PRELUDE:** When the Stars Are in the Heavens Bright GATHERING SONG

**Carol Shamory** 



#### **DIALOGUE**

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

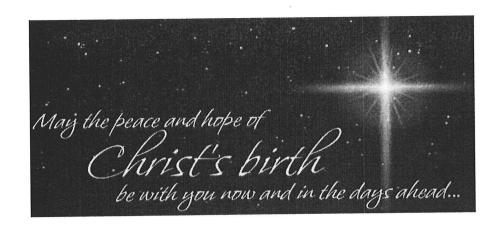
And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.



## FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

#### SECOND CAROL

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM - #279

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.



#### SECOND READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his

kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



#### THIRD CAROL

#### LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING - #272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung,
It came, a flow'r so bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

#### THIRD READING: Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

#### FOURTH CAROL

#### ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY - #269

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

#### **FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



#### FIFTH CAROL

#### ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT - #274

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 merciful king's birth.

#### FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "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."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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." <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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.

#### SIXTH CAROL

#### IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER - #294

In the bleak mid-winter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

#### SIXTH READING: John 1:1-14

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



#### SEVENTH CAROL

#### LOVE HAS COME - #292

Love has come alight in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

#### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth. Your Word, Jesus, is truth. In his light, draw all to the manger to gather in wonder with the shepherds. In his light, draw all to the manger to kneel in reverence with the wise ones. In his light, draw all to the manger to sing for joy with the angels. In the brightness of his life cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world. It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way. In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

#### **OFFERING**

Amen.

A Shepherd's Lament

Gilbert M. Martin

## Offering Response:

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

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.

#### BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.



#### SENDING SONG

#### JOY TO THE WORLD - #267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; Let ev'ry heart Prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing, An heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n, And nature sing.

Joy to the earth,
The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world
With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you, With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again. Organ Postlude

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Altar Flowers Provided by Forget-Me-Not Flourist

Thank you to all those who sponsored altar flowers, bulletins, radio and digital ministry throughout the year. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor anyone of these services please contact our church office as openings for next year are available.

## TRINITY'S STAFF AND E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Danielle Crestuk. Administrative Assistant: <a href="mailto:dcrestuk@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com">dcrestuk@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com</a>
Michael Kiehner, Organist & Choir Director

Jim Honicker, Sexton

Robert Thomas, Church Council President

## Prayer List: December 30, 2023-December 31, 2023

Members of Trinity with immediate concerns: Judi Barton, Brian Bohr, Rene Boylan, Pam Brennan, Ron Brennan, Doug Camodeca, Jodi Denning, Debbie Ebert, Gene Ebling, Joel Ebling, Sharon Fessler, Margaret Gretsky, Pat Haluska, Jarred Heckart, Melissa Heckart, Edward Helman, Arline Hufnagle, Megan Kimmel, Jodi Klein, Andrea Madara, Thelma Mansfield, Margie Mataka, Donald Moyer, Sr., Ray Moyer, Diane O'Leary-Hughes, Nancy Pauzer, Suzanne Rich, Don Roth, Ruth Russell, Ron Schaeffer, Peg Schappell, Kay Shaw, Jack Shuey, Margaret Snyder, Dorothy Thomas, Edna Uranko, Barbara Wagner, Helen Walasayage, Pat, Karen Wood, Damon Yost

Members of Trinity with ongoing concerns: Ruth Bensinger, Sam Carroll, Barbara Conrad, Carole Coyle, Dennis Fredericks, Carolyn Gauntlett, Betsey Lord, Dennis Lord, Camie McGonigle, Adam Morrow, Chester Moyer, Marilyn Reed, Jill Schaeffer, Albert Schneider, Linda Seiwell, Cindy Seltzer, Sally Spotts, Colin Studlack, Jill Weaver, Brock Weber, Ellen Wesnoski, Kerry Willard, Ivan Willard, Mary Jane Wilson, Sissy Wilson, Haley Wiscount, Sadie Wiscount, Donna Wood

<u>Shut-Ins:</u> Merle Amos, Delight & Paul Ashembrier, Jeanette Augustine, Tom & Mickie Bair, Leah Brokhoff, Earlamay Downing, Marsha Ehlers, Mary Evans, Sandy Fessler, Helen Harvey, Robert Heffner, Dolores Hoffman, Richard & Carole Kline, Faye Krasinsky, Terry Pugh, Nancy Schriner, Carolyn Spiess, Ann Spotts, Frances Thomas, Carolyn Wire, Kathryn Wodack, Darlene Zeller

<u>Nursing Home/Personal Care Residents:</u> Yvonne Blankenhorn, Hope Fisher, Tom Fredericks, Louise Gradwell, Larry Haffey, Dianna Hutton, Mollie Katchur, Cheryl Kephart, Mary Leary, Shirley Morgan, Anna Stinner, Judy Thomas, Shawn Thomas

Military Personnel: Brett Allison, Jacob Barton, Jason Beach, Audrey Burke, Christopher & Savannah Butler, Tim Campbell, Elizabeth Chattin, Andrew Clancey, Ryan Devaney, Jeff and Katie Dittmar, Noah Elison, Brian and Joshua Fetterman, Joshua Fredericks, Kevin Gregory, Sean Grube, Seth Grube, Joshua Hager, Aaron Lesher, Edward Mady, Tom McMurtrie, Ryan Miller, Ashton Muncy, Allison Ney, John Nomland, Aaron Oswald, Eddie Padinski, Kevin Potts, Larry Reedy, Zachary Reichert, Michael and Stephen Reier, Steven Sleva, Nicholas Starner, Matthew Tobin, Jamie Watt

Family Members/Friends: Karen Alban, Michelle Ambrose, Brianne Barket, John Barnetsky, David Bechtel, Timothy Beissel, Olivia Bensinger, Charlette Bethea, Lauren Boorujy, Linda Borchardt, Ron Boris, Rose Brehony, Doug Broughton, Joan Buehner, Connie Burns, Shawn Care, Bill Causf, Irene Conway, Betty Coyle, Donna Dando, Hayden Daubert, Alice Davis, Eliana Denning, Justin Dicello, Joanie Eagan, Marilee Ebert, Gaylene Ebling, Margaret Ebling, Tracey Ebling, Scarlett Ecckers, Virginia Ehrich, Dale Felker, Kim Gerthoffer, Nancy Gullob, David Hallman, Maureen Hill, Vicki Jarvis, Warren Jefferson, Bill Jones, Lindsay Kastner, Barry Kellner, Cody and Kime Kimberlin, Kaylynn Klunk, Blayke Kopinetz, John Kruss, Butch Lasco, Phil Lasco, Kenneth Leister, Bernadette L. Lord, John Olfhinski Sister Jo Magdalinski, Maria Masteller, Shawn Matz, Melissa Martin, Melissa L. Martin Lenny and Karen McHugh, Joe Matz, Joe McNulty, Sue Mengle, Alethia Meyer, Ariel Miller, Marie Minder, Alyssa Morissey, Vincent Murray, Pastor Peggy Sue Pfeffer, Kathy Pritchard, Jack & Dot Rebuck, Jerry Reed, Bryan Reinhold, Tina Robinson, Dave Rothermel, Lisa Schaeffer, Sandy Schlemmer, Pastor Jim Seifert, Adam Selfridge, Aimee & Ethan Selfridge, Brian Shishlo, Joshua Sophy, Allen and Jack Spotts, Lindsay Spotts, Jessica L. Steward, Diane Sumoski, Jack Thomas, Dr. Mark Thomas, Graeme Turner, Charlie Wagner, Barry Ward, Glynn Ward, Emily Wetzel, Bill Wishousky, Anne Schock Womack, Mike Zawaski

**Those who mourn:** The family and friends of Thomas Bair

**Trinity's prayer list** is updated weekly. If you, or someone you know is in need of prayers and would like to be added to our prayer list, please call the church office. Individuals can remain on the list for as is needed. We will however, keep "family members and friends" on our list for two weeks, unless you notify us that they would like to remain on longer.

#### STATEMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL MISSION TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church is a worshipping, learning, witnessing, and serving community of baptized Christians. It is a welcoming place where the Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments are celebrated according to the Gospel. As a community of believers, we challenge each other to respond to the call of our Lord to love and minister to persons at home and throughout the world. We encourage each other to share our time, our talents, and gifts to further the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these ways, we bear witness to the love we have first received from God through Jesus Christ. Adopted by the Congregation

January 25, 1998

#### TRINITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Saturday, December 30	9:00am-11:00am	Anthracite Attack Volleyball	
	6:00 pm	Worship: Lessons & Carols	
Sunday, December 31	9:30 am	Worship: Lessons & Carols	
Monday, January 1		OFFICE CLOSED	
	6:30pm-8:30pm	Adult Volleyball	
	6:30pm	Strategic Planning Meeting	
Tuesday, January 2	10:00am	Adult Exercise	
	5:30pm-7:00pm	Special Olympic Floor Hockey	
	6:00pm	Staff and Records Meeting	
	7:00pm-9:00pm	Anthracite Attack Volleyball	
Wednesday, January 3	6:30pm-8:30pm	Adult Volleyball	
Thursday, January 4	8:00am	Pottsville Business Association Meeting	
f's	5:00pm-7:00pm	Anthracite Attack Volleyball	
	7:00pm-9:00pm	Eclispe Youth Volleyball	
Friday, January 5	10-11:00	Adult Exercise	

<u>Date</u>	Sermon	Worship Assistant	Lector
Saturday, December 30	Debbie Sheehan	Christine Linder	
Sunday, December 31	Christine Linder	Debbie Sheehan	

## "THE CONNECTING LINK"

Sunday mornings, WPPA, 1360 AM at 11:00 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Guest Account
Password: TrinityWIFI
(password is case sensitive)



# **Today's Readings**

First Sunday of Christmas December 31, 2023

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn,

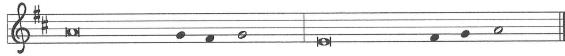
and her salvation like a burning torch. 
<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,

and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

#### Psalm

Psalm 148; tone 6



Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD I from the heavens; praise God I in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon; sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,

and they were created, **6who made them stand fast** 

forev- er and ever, giving them a law

that shall not | pass away.

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;

8 fire and hail, 1 snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do-1 ing God's will;

<sup>9</sup>mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills, fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;

10 wild beasts | and all cattle,

creeping things and | flying birds;

11sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup>young | men and maidens, old and | young together.

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over <sup>1</sup> earth and heaven. continued

<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

<sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

#### TODAY'S READINGS December 31, 2023

Volume 55, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

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## TLC December 30 - December 31, 2023

## YOUTH / CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Some of our youth are planning to attend the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

Please stay tuned for events and activities planned for the upcoming months, and thank you for supporting our youth!

## Sunday School and Confirmation

## Our Sunday-Funday fun has already begun, but we've got room for you!

If you are a youth in Pre-K through Grade 5, you are welcome to join us Sunday's following worship. We have lessons, crafts, silly songs, and more

Sunday School registration forms are available at the Usher's Station, card table in the lounge, and in the Sunday School room. If you have filled out a form please be sure to bring with it you. We encourage all kids and parents/grandparents to join us for a fun-filled time!

# Next Confirmation class is Sunday January 7th following worship. Our lesson will be Promise: Joseph's Story

If you are new to Trinity, or would like to enroll your child/children in our confirmation or Sunday school programs please reach out to Pastor Chris via phone (570-622-9910) or email at <a href="mailto:crothharpt@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com">crothharpt@tlcpottsville.onmicrosoft.com</a>.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!!

Teachers and parents are urgently needed!

## FROM THE DESK OF VICAR STEPHANIE



## Jesus, Jammies & Joy

The second annual Jesus, Jammies and Joy pajama project ended with 160 sets of pajamas collected this year. Many thanks to all who contributed children's pajamas of all sizes to bring smiles, giggles and a warm hug to children in need this Christmas.

All pajamas were distributed through Adopt a Child, Schuylkill Hope Center, Safe Berks and Mary's Shelter in time for Christmas.

## **Prayer Group**

A monthly prayer group is meeting the fourth Thursday at 1 pm and the second Tuesday at 11 am (after exercise group) in the large Sunday school room. Everyone is welcome to join us!

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

A Prayer Shawl Ministry has been started to provide a gift of love and comfort to people in life transitions. Supplies for creating shawls including yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks are available. We already have over 30 prayers shawls ready to be handed out.

If you know someone who could use prayers and the loving embrace of a shawl to help them navigate life's challenges, feel free to stop by our room off the main Sunday School room to select a shawl. Remember to sign the log so that we can pray for the shawl recipient.

thank you

Thank-you for your support and prayers as we learned an grew together over the past 17 months. Peace and blessings to the people of Trinity as you continue to serve our neighbors.

**Pastor Stephanie Roth** 

## SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

## In Ian's Boots

Thank-you again to all who responded with donations of shoes for those in need served by In Ian's Boot! We delivered our donations the week before Christmas. The shoe collection box will remain available for your donations of gently used boots or shoes for adults and children.

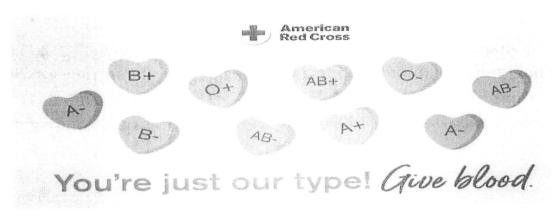
Let's continue to be good stewards of the abundance that God has provided us. Remember that through our donations to In Ian's Boots, we help to ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors have boots and shoes to wear!

#### **Red Cross Bloodmobile**

There were 38 pints collected on a 27 pint goal or 141% of goal. What a phenomenal drive and great way to end 2023 at a point in time when blood levels available are at a critical low! Thank you all who assisted in anyway.

Getting that communication out is just so important!!

Our next scheduled drive is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th 2024.



## Community Blood Drive Trinity Lutheran Church

Gym 300 West Arch Street Pottsville, PA 17901

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Open To The Public

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Pottsville to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/heart



## UPCOMING GROUP MEETINGS AT TRINITY FRIEDA HOH

## No Meeting Scheduled for January

Any questions, contact Marie Weikel at (570) 449-6484

## **CIRCLE V**

## No meeting scheduled for January

For more info, details or transportation contact Teresa Stoffregen at (570) 622-7918

## **Adult Volleyball**

Anyone interested in joining adult volleyball on Monday's from 6:30pm—8:30pm please contact Deb Miller at 570-622-4390

Thank you to all those who sponsored altar flowers, bulletins, radio and digital ministry throughout the year. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor anyone of these services please contact our church office as openings for next year are available.