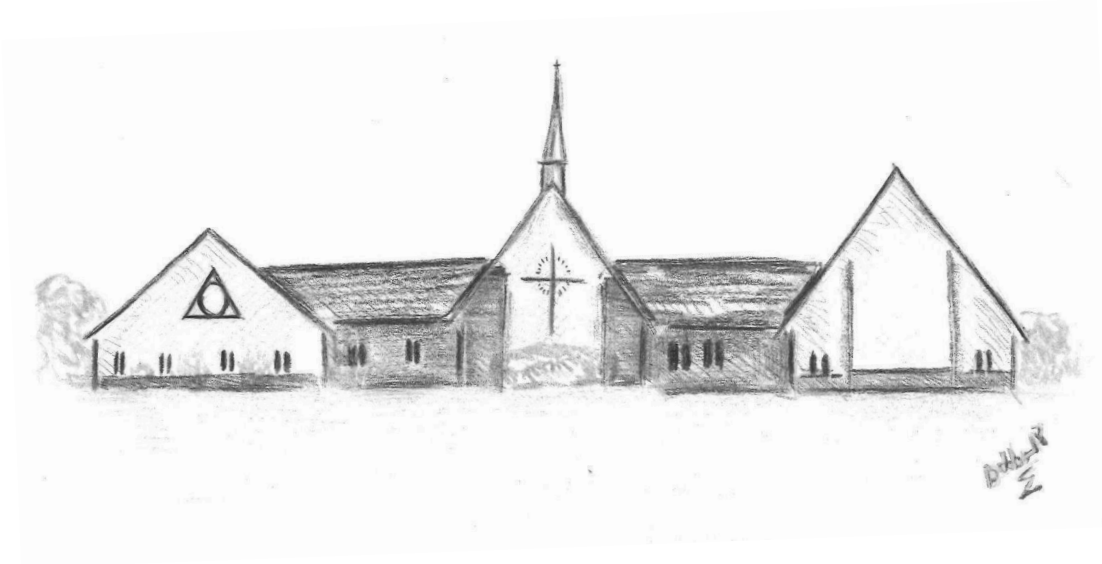


# Fourth Sunday in Advent

## December 22, 2024



### **OUR MISSION:**

***To make disciples for Jesus Christ,  
to baptize and to teach the faith,  
that all may know the hope of Jesus Christ  
and become responsible members of His church.***

Trinity Lutheran Church  
1190 Valley Forge Rd PO BOX 340 Fairview Village, PA 19409  
610-584-8411 [www.trinityfairview.com](http://www.trinityfairview.com)

*Assistive technology for the hearing impaired is available.  
Please see the operator in the sound booth.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## **PRELUDE MUSIC**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**



P Now, let our singing help us clear our hearts and minds for worship.



## Advent Candle Lighting

ELW 240 verse 4 only

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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# GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P Please rise.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**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.**

**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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG

## ACS 949

### Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

## **GREETING**

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P Let us pray.
- C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

# WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

# RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55**


- L <sup>246b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- C <sup>48</sup> for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**
- L <sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.
- C <sup>50</sup> You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**
- L <sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
- C <sup>52</sup> casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**
- L <sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.
- C <sup>54</sup> You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**
- L <sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.



# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

7

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. Chords: F, C/E, Gm7, C, C/Bb, F/A. Lyrics: Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. Chords: Bb, C, Dm, F/A, Bb2, Csus. Lyrics: words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. Chords: Dm, Gm7, C7sus, C, F/A, Bb, C, F. Lyrics: Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le -



Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, key signature of one flat. Chords: F/A, Bb2, Csus, Dm, Gm7, C7sus, C, F. Lyrics: lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45**

**P** The holy gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

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

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**P** Please be seated.

## **SERMON**

**The Reverend Karen Nelson, Pastor**

**P** Please rise.

# SERMON HYMN

ELW 265

## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."      Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

# **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** **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.**

P Please sit or kneel.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Let us pray.

L As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

L God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill.

We especially pray for those who are unable to be with us today: Sandy, Dot, Nancy, Joe & Diane.

For those in need of God's healing love and strength:

Steve, Rick, Brandon, Mike, Stacy, Joan, Jane, Peggy, Anna, Marita, Heather, Tilly, Paula, Tom, Susan, Vince, Bob, Carol, Leslie, Katrina, Mary, Sherry, Rhiana, Edward, Megan, Jed, Wayne, Phyllis, & Sandra

For those in need of God's guidance, protection and strength:  
Christine & Hope

In gratitude for God's abundance.

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one:  
The Schilling Family.

For those who serve and protect our nation: Jordan, Brian, & Craig.

And for those who we hold in our hearts, and those whose needs are known only to you God.

**C** Lord in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

**L** God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **receive our prayer.**

**L** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**C** **Amen.**

# SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P Please rise.
- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C **And also with you.**

*While we sing, you may turn to those sitting closest to you to offer, and receive, the peace and reconciliation which is possible only through Christ.*

## Peace

♩ = 70

B♭ E♭ F<sup>7</sup> B♭ E♭ F B♭ B♭<sup>7</sup>

Pe - ace to you! God's Pe - ace to you. I share Go - d's Peace with you - - -

5 B♭ E♭ F<sup>7</sup> B♭ Gm Gm/E♭ F 1. B♭ 2. E♭ B♭

Pe - ace to you! God's Pe - ace to you. I share Go - d's Peace with you!

- P Please be seated.

## OFFERTORY MEDITATION MUSIC

# OFFERING

*God has blessed us in so many ways. We offer our gifts as a demonstration of our gratitude. And we pray God will use these resources to help us address the needs of our neighbors.*

**Offering by online giving:** Make a gift to the general fund at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR6Z/home>



**Bill pay option** with your local bank or

**By Mail:**

Trinity Lutheran Church PO Box 340 Fairview Village, PA 19409

**P** Please rise.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** 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 our 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 God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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:

## SANCTUS

♩=65  $\text{C}$  G Am F Dm<sup>7</sup> G C G

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord Go - d of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

6 Am Em F Am G C G Am

full of your glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est! Bless - ed is He who comes

11 F Em F G C

i - n the name of the Lor - d Ho - sa - nna in the high - est!

# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

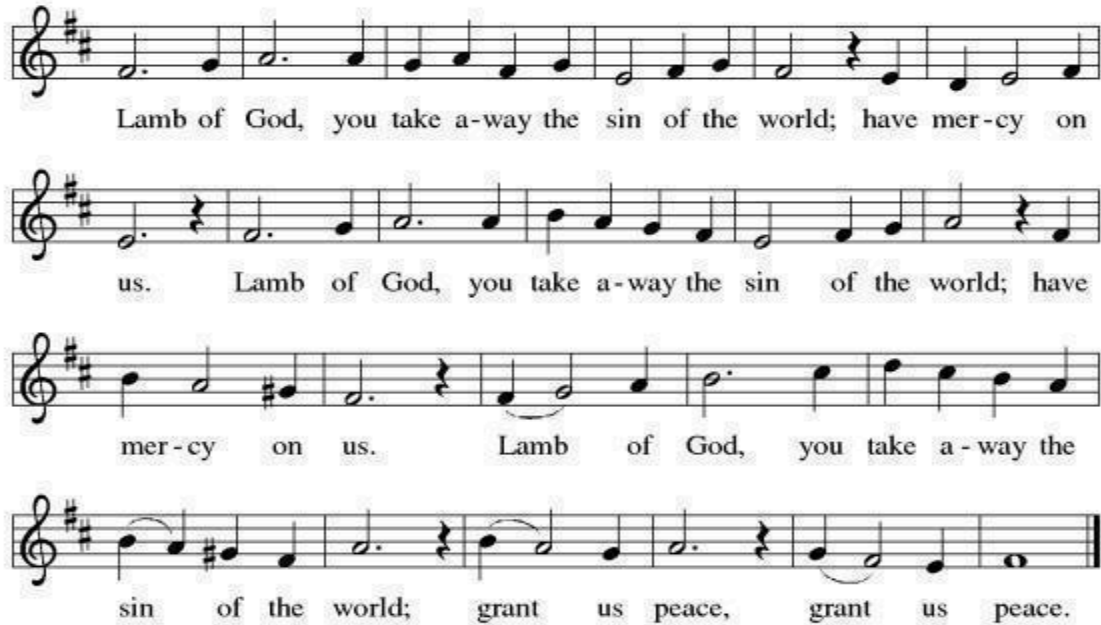
## LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

P Please be seated until the invitation.

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION

- P** The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
- C** **Amen.**

*To receive Holy Communion please come by the center aisle to the pastor to receive the bread (wafer) and then proceed to the communion assistant for intinction (dipping your wafer in the wine) and then eat, then return to your seat by the side aisle.*

*Non alcoholic wine is used at all services.*

*A gluten free wafer is available, simply tell the Pastor when you approach.*

*If you are not communing and desire a personal blessing please come to Pastor with your hands at your sides.*

P Please rise.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you forever in his grace.

C **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with his favor, and give you his peace.  
In the name of the Father, ✝ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG

ELW 297

## Jesus, What a Wonderful Child



Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.



Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and



mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,



glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in thanks for all those who make worship possible every week by Ann Dungan.**



## Announcements:

- Welcome to all who are visiting us today. Please complete a purple visitor's card (found on the clipboard in the pew chair in front of you) and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for taking the time to worship with us today.
- Adult Faith Formation: Today our Advent study concludes with a discussion of Micah 5: 2-5a led by Judy Flanigan. We'll explore Micah's notion of power expressed in service, as well as noticing and naming the unexpected places of God's activity in our lives. All are welcome to join us in Room 129 after worship and coffee.
- Evening Prayer will not be held on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Our regular Wednesday 7 pm schedule will resume on January 8. Please contact Judy Flanigan if you would like the Zoom link to join us in the new year. All are welcome.
- CALLING ALL READERS! Anyone who enjoys reading is welcome to attend the TAG Book Club meeting on Tuesday January 7, 2025 at 11am in the narthex. We will be discussing the classic novel *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery. Any questions, contact Lori Peltier at [lorjarp@gmail.com](mailto:lorjarp@gmail.com) or 610-405-4654. Hope to see you there.
- For Pastoral emergencies please call 610-584-8411 extension 2 and leave a message for Pastor Nelson. This voicemail is being monitored for emergencies.

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS AT TRINITY**

As in years past, Trinity's office will be closed between Christmas Eve & New Years Day. A small change this year is that Kim will be on vacation beginning December 21st without access to email & voicemail. All of the bulletins & newsletters will be produced ahead of time so any newsletter articles, announcements or prayers sent during that time will not be printed until the week of January 1st. For emergencies during this time, please call Pastor Nelson at 610-584-8411 x2 and leave a message.

**TRINITY**  
**LUTHERAN**  
**FAIRVIEW VILLAGE**  
 LIVE LOVE SERVE

<b>Serving Today 12/22</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Hannah Nelson – Poteet</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Jennifer DePaulis</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Jen Castor &amp; Ann Dungan</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Jim Sorom &amp; Brenda Aslin</b>
<b>Advent Wreath Lighter</b>	<b>Francesca Burnett</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>Meg Smith &amp; Marilou Doughty</b>
<b>Building Opener</b>	<b>Alma Nowmos</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Chris Cole</b>
<b>Counting Team</b>	<b>Dave Stone, Meg Smith, Lori Peltier</b>
<b>Serving Sunday 12/29</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Brenda Aslin, Lynn Chialastri, Ann Dungan, Michael Martorelli, Becky Shadle, Leslie Askonas</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Jenny Anderson</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Jeff Shadle &amp; Lori Peltier</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>Becky Shadle &amp; Ann Dungan</b>
<b>Building Opener</b>	<b>Jeff Shadle</b>
<b>Counting Team</b>	<b>Dave Stone, Meg Smith, Lori Peltier</b>



## ***This Week at Trinity***

### **Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10:00 AM – Worship

11:15 AM -Adult Faith Formation – Room 129

1:00-3:00 PM – Food Drive

3:00 PM – Outside Event in Hall

### **Monday, December 23**

Trinity Country Nursery School Christmas Break

Church Office Closed

### **Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Trinity Country Nursery School Christmas Break

Church Office Closed

3:00 PM & 7:00 PM -Christmas Eve Services; Prelude Concert at 6:30 PM

### **Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

Trinity Country Nursery School Christmas Break

Church Office Closed

### **Thursday, December 26**

Trinity Country Nursery School Christmas Break

Church Office Closed

### **Friday, December 27**

Trinity Country Nursery School Christmas Break

Church Office Closed

### **Saturday, December 28**

8:00 AM – Car Club – Narthex

## ***Upcoming Events at Trinity***

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 3 pm & 7 pm**

Christmas Eve Services

**December 29th 10 am**

Lessons & Carols