

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

537 GRAND AVENUE

BILLINGS, MONTANA

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023

Worship – 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00pm

AS WE GATHER

“Fear not.” Nearly two thousand years ago, an angel of the Lord spoke these two simple words to shepherds on a dark night outside the little town of Bethlehem. However, this was not the first time an angelic messenger has spoken this profound imperative. “Fear not” is the angel Gabriel’s message to Mary when it was announced that she would bear the Savior. “Fear not” are the angel’s words to Joseph when he was instructed to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. “Fear not” will be the comfort spoken to the women at the empty tomb of Easter. And “fear not” are words for your ears too. Whatever anxieties, heartaches, or fears you have this night, hear the message of the angel for you: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10–11).

*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: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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 **"O Holy Night"** *Solo by Jennifer Boll* (2pm)

"O Holy Night" *Trinity Choir* (4pm)

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

FIRST READING *(Mary)*

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

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

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And 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**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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**

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And 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**

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“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**

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And 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***

⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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***“Fear Not!”****Luke 2:1-20***OFFERING****OFFERING HYMN:** ***“Noel”*** *Solo by Jennifer Boll* (2pm)*Trinity Choir* ***“What Is This Pleasant Fragrance”*** (4pm)***“Joy to the World”*** #387 (6pm)**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 Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

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 Choir

“Love Came Down at Christmas” (4pm)

After the candles are lit, we sing –

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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>PRESIDING:</u>	Rev. Daniel Keinath
<u>ELDERS:</u>	Arnold Schultz (2pm) Clayton Scheafer (4pm) Keith Schmidt (6pm)
<u>ACOLYTES:</u>	Emily Ostermiller (2pm) Phoebe Hatzell (4pm) Amy Schmidt (6pm)
<u>ORGANISTS:</u>	Dr. Ted Kober (2pm) Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche (4pm) Mr. Rick Krohn (6pm)
<u>CHOIR:</u>	Trinity Choir (4pm)
<u>CHOIR DIRECTOR:</u>	Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche
<u>TRUMPETER:</u>	Dave Chandler (2 & 4pm)
<u>SOLOISTS:</u>	Jennifer Boll (2pm) Ashley Speed (6pm)
<u>SOUND:</u>	Darryl Magnuson (2pm) Dion Campbell (4pm) Ray Koschel (6pm)
<u>VIDEO:</u>	Lew Dunning (2pm)
<u>ALTAR DUTY:</u>	Shared Duty

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

Empowered by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments, Trinity Lutheran Church and School is committed to preparing people who are being shaped for service, passionately proclaiming the Father's grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Trinity Lutheran Church
537 Grand Ave.
Billings, MT 59101
Church: 406-245-3984

Trinity Lutheran School
2802 Belvedere Dr.
Billings, MT 59102
School: 406-656-1021

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY – December 24 - 31, 2023

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

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

Monday 12/25 & Tuesday 12/26: Church Office Closed

Saturday, 12/30: 5:00pm Worship

Sunday, 12/31: 8:00 & 10:30am Worship

6:30pm *New Year's Eve Worship Service*

8:00pm *New Year's Lock-In for Youth 8th grade and up*

2024 Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the side classroom.

YEAR-END-CHARITABLE GIFT DEADLINE: Any charitable contributions made to Trinity Lutheran Church and School for this year must be made by December 31. The general IRS rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January cannot be deducted in the previous year, even if it is backdated to the previous year, or even if it was actually written and dated in the previous year. The only exception: Donations that are mailed *and postmarked* by the end of the year are deductible in that year even though not received until the following year.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS BEGINS on Monday, January 8th from 7-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please call the church office if you plan to attend so we can have enough material available, or if you have questions.

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

Kathryn Adams

In memory of Paul & Betty Kemp

George Bauer

In memory of Harry Bauer

Brenda Brockett

In memory of her maternal 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

Liz Kercher Clark

In memory of loved ones lost

Ken & Sandy Collier

In memory of Sandy's parents, Clarence & Gladys Breiting

Carol Corder

In memory of her mom, Pam, and niece, Rachel

Arlene DeBoer

In memory of Donald J. DeBoer

Judy Drinkwalter

In memory of family members who have passed

Lew & Connie Dunning

In memory of their parents

Tom & Angie Ebel

Dale & Phyllis Flack

Rick & Patsy Friez

In memory of granddaughter, Mayci Mack, and their parents

Velma Gammon

Tom & Marge Hunt

Given in honor of Jesus' birth

Arlen & Yvonne Kammerzell

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

Wayne & Connie Klundt

In memory of their parents and B.J.'s Dad, Kenny Shaw

Rick Krohn

In memory of Marci Krohn

Ed & Eloise Livingston

LeeAnn Miller

In memory of her son, Tyler Miller

Todd & Debra Miller

Art & Christin Moreau

In memory of Paul and Beverly Williams and Ron Ciccarelli

Sherrie Murray

In memory of her parents, Adolph & Agnes Heimback

Esther Olson

In memory of her husband, LeRoy Olson

Bill & Carol Pfau

Christmas blessing

Mark & Delia Richlen

In memory of their parents

Sylvia Schriefer

In memory of Henry Schriefer

Margaret Skoog

In memory of her parents and husband, Dennis Skoog

Lucile Smelser

In memory of Leland Smelser's birthday

Carl & Jan Solberg

In memory of Ed & Sarah Ostlund

Patricia Stricker

In memory of Richard A. Stricker, Bruce Fuller, and William Stricker

Jack & Carole Wahl

Leo & Diana Wohler

In honor of our wonderful church.