

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**502 Bardshar Road  
Sandusky OH 44870**

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**Sunday, December 29, 2024  
First Sunday of Christmas**

**Service of Lessons and Carols  
with reflections from Martin Luther**

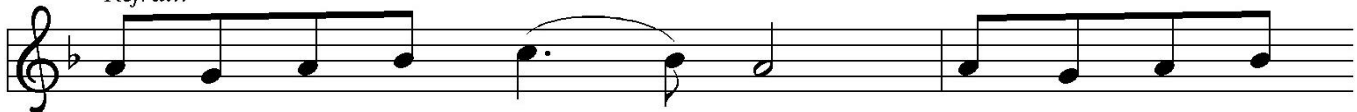
## Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

*Refrain*

On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr, unknown  
 Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

**Opening Dialogue**

Come! Look upon the baby Jesus,  
 cradled in the arms of his mother.

**Seeing this wondrous sight,  
 may our hearts be comforted  
 and our spirits filled with peace.**

Come! Listen to choirs of angels  
 announcing good news to all people.

**Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing:**

## **Glory to God in the highest!**

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart,  
not as history but as a gift.

**Opening our hearts to this great mystery,  
may Christ be born in us today.**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

### **Reflection: Luther on the Birth of Jesus**

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. . . . What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! . . . Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. . . . You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, p. 33)

# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.  
Music: Polish carol

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY  
87 87 88 77

## Second Reading: Luke 2:8-16

<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>12</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!"

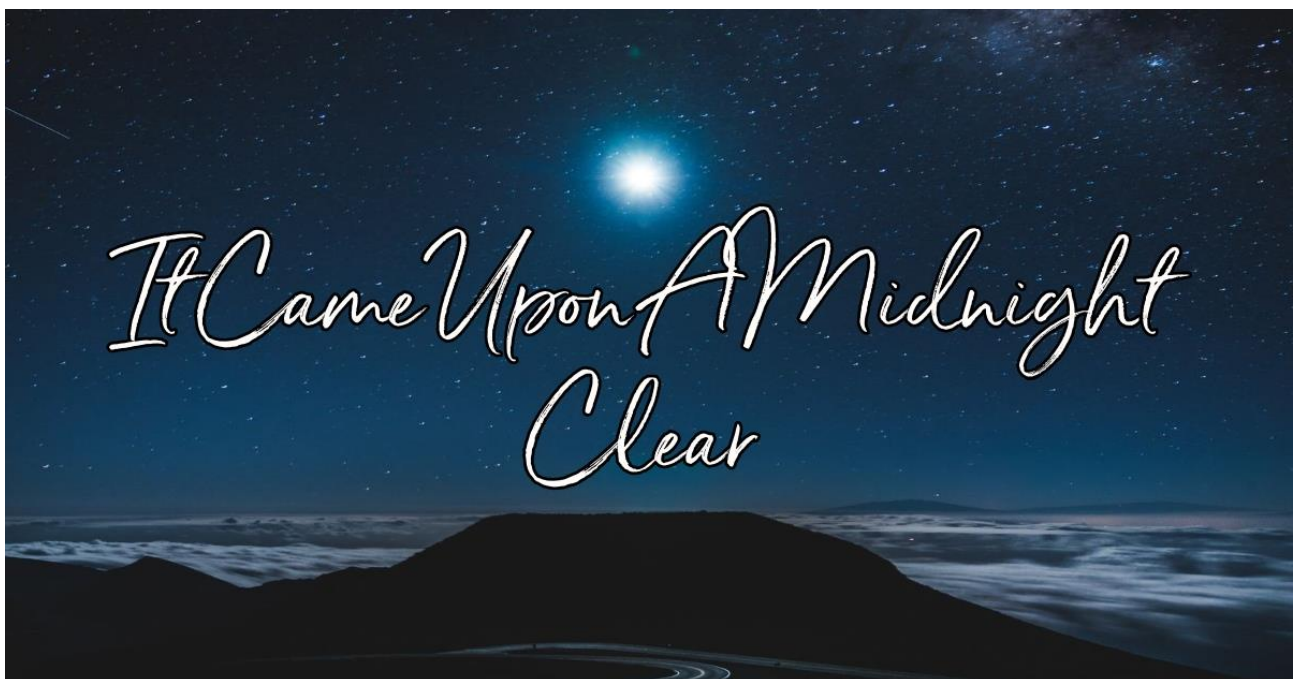
<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

### **Reflection: Luther's reflections on the shepherds and angels**

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. . . . This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, "Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?" I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: "Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition." But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, "Could not God have saved the world some other way?" (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 36, 40)

**Carol: It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

**No.282**





## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

282

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

### Third Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



## Reflection

### Luther's reflections on Herod and the wise men

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. . . .

Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word.

But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king "was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? *He* had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. . . .

Now Herod had a crafty plan. "The Jews," thought he, "will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape." So he called the scribes to him and said, "Where is Christ to be born?" Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 50-52)



## 300

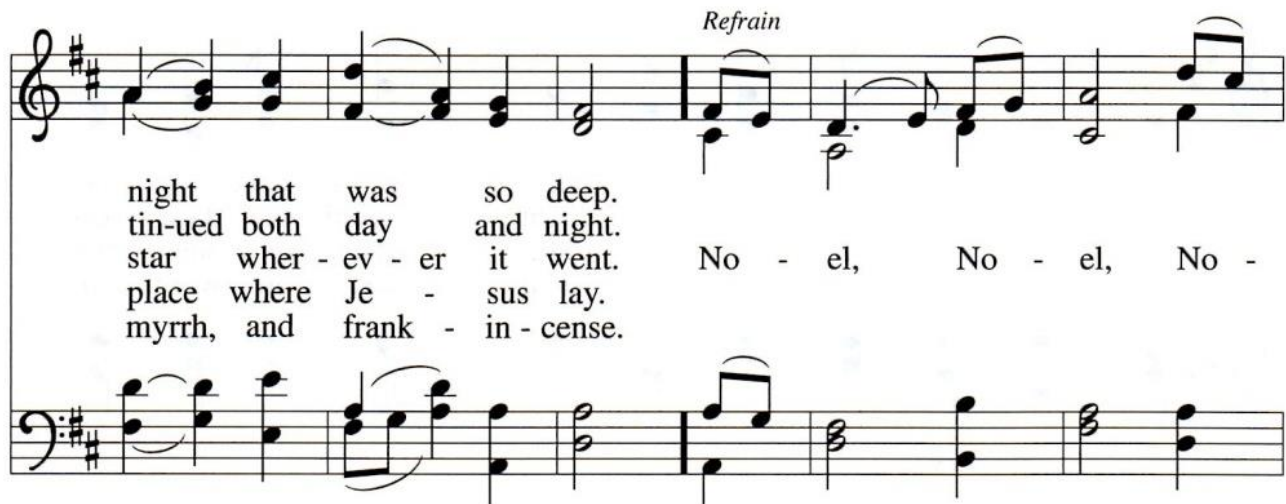
## The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**Children's Message**

**Pastor Jen Herrmann**

### **Fourth Reading**

John 1:1-5, 14-18

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.

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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



## Reflection


### Luther's reflections on the Word made flesh

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "*Unto us* a child is born, *unto us* a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 33, 16)

**Carol: Of the Father's Love Begotten**

**No. 295**



Of the Father's Love  
Begotten

# Of the Father's Love Begotten

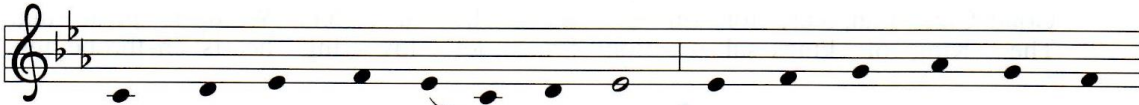
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1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



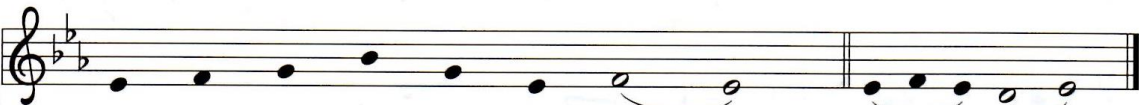
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## Prayers of Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders (*specific institutions or instructors may be named*) in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands (*places of war and conflict may be named*). God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill (*especially*). Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place (*the local congregation or ministry setting may be named*), we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## 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

May the Word that Mary brought to birth  
carry you into new and abundant life.  
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms  
enfold you with love and strength.  
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song  
bring harmony to our world.  
And the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**No.288**

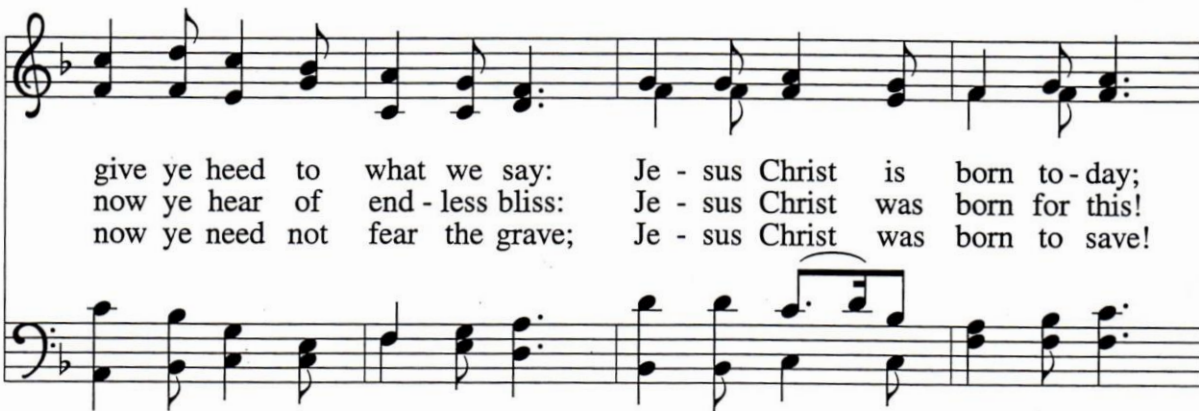


# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

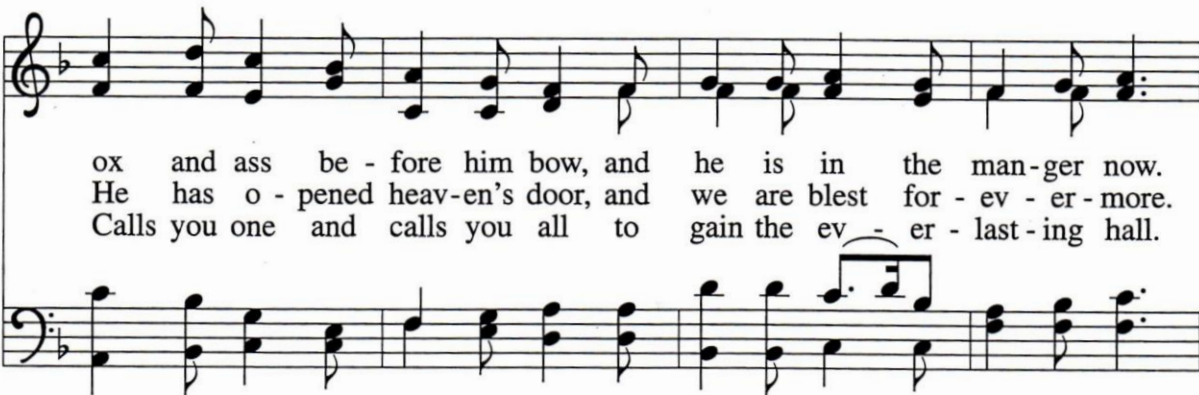
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1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## AT WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

At 8:00...

Pastor:	Pastor Jen Herrmann
Lectors:	
Communion Assistant:	Guy Miller
Usher:	Fred Wobser & Kent Miller
Acolyte:	Ryan Wiedenheft

At 10:30...

Pastor:	Pastor Jen Herrmann
Lectors:	
Communion Assistant:	Cathy Wobser
Usher:	Bob Troike & Denny Sessler
Acolyte:	Mason Russell

December Altar Care:	Ann Strean & Sally Warner
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## PRAYER CONCERNS

To all affected by the war in Israel and Ukraine; for all directly or indirectly effected by tornadoes, and flooding, mass shootings happening nationwide;  
FAITH members, including, Mary Ann Neidler,  
the people of Grace, Castalia, and their interim pastor;  
firefighters and emergency medical personnel of the greater Sandusky area.

**Pastor Jen can be contacted at 419-822-7630 or [jen.herrmann@gmail.com](mailto:jen.herrmann@gmail.com)**

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God in celebration of Jacob's 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday, Love Mom and Dad.

**DONATIONS TO OUR “PENNY JUG”** support the global relief and habilitation efforts of ELCA World Hunger, a mission of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**THIS MORNING’S LOOSE CASH OFFERING** (money not in an envelope or given without other designation) benefits Current Expenses Fund. **LOOSE CHECKS** will support our Current Expenses Fund unless designated otherwise on the check memo line.

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GOODNESS**

December 22

General Fund – \$3, 458.75

Building Improvements – \$260.00

## **This Week at Trinity**

TODAY	Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday School	8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am
WEDNESDAY	New Year’s Day “We All Belong” (Narcotics Anon.)	Office Closed 7:00 pm
SATURDAY	“We All Belong” (Narcotics Anon.)	11:00 am
SUNDAY	Communion Service Sunday School	8:00 am & 10:30 am 9:15 am

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE IS HOSTING ITS INAUGURAL “LEFTOVER” COFFEE HOUR ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>.** Bring in any leftover cookies, fudge, or other desserts to share during the coffee hour after each worship service. If you would like to bring them on the Sunday after Christmas, the 29th, you can put them in the kitchen freezer, mark it “leftover” and we’ll be sure to bring it upstairs. Or you may bring the desserts on the 5<sup>th</sup> and put it in the gathering area upstairs. But please make sure they are not stale and still edible. Then stay after worship and enjoy!

**WHO ENJOYS PUZZLES?** You know, the 300, 500, 750, or 1000 piece kind! The Congregational Care Team is starting a Jigsaw Puzzle Library. Members may check out a jigsaw puzzle to take home and return when finished. We approximately have 15 puzzles to start our library. If you have any jigsaw puzzles at home that you would like to share, please ensure all pieces are in the box, and mark your name on the box so it may be returned if so inclined. In the next few weeks, we’ll be working on setting up the Jigsaw Puzzle Library in one of the rooms off the upstairs gathering area. Donated jigsaw puzzles can be dropped off on the desk in the corner of the room. We will inform you when the Jigsaw Puzzle Library is officially available!



**YOU'RE INVITED ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> FOR AN OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION TO GIVE A FAREWELL TO SECRETARY CAROL DAHS AND WELCOME OUR NEW SECRETARY, STEPHANIE LEHR.**

A catered breakfast will be provided by Castalia's Cold Creek Café. It will include bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy and biscuits, potatoes, and a fruit bowl. There will also be cake for our two guests of honor.

The reception will begin with coffee time immediately after the 8:00am service. Breakfast will be served from 9:30 until 10:15am. The cost of the meal will be paid for by the Congregational Care Committee fund.

Please sign up so the caterers will know how much food to prepare. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall across from the church office. Sign up will be until Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, so please do so quickly. If you did or did not have any interaction with Carol, we hope you can come and wish her good luck with her new journey in life. Also, help us welcome our new secretary, Stephanie. Let's come together as a congregation and make this event special for the both of them!

And if you would like to give a gift to Carol, we are asking for monetary gifts. You may pick up a pink envelope at the sanctuary entrance and put your gift in the offering plate or in the box on the desk in the church office. If you are writing a check, please write it to Trinity Lutheran Church and put in the memo "Carol's Gift."



# NEW YEAR PRAYER

Another year is dawning  
With the chance to start anew.  
May I be kinder, wiser, Lord,  
In all I say and do.

Not so caught up in selfish gain  
That I would fail to see  
The things in life that mean the most  
Cost not a fancy fee.

The warm, kind word that I can give,  
The outstretched hand to help,  
The prayers I pray for those in need—  
More precious these than wealth.

I know not what may lie ahead  
Of laughter or of tears;  
I only need to know each day  
That You are walking near.

I'm thankful for this brand new year  
As now I humbly pray,  
My hand secure in Yours, dear Lord,  
Each step along the way.

Kay Hoffman