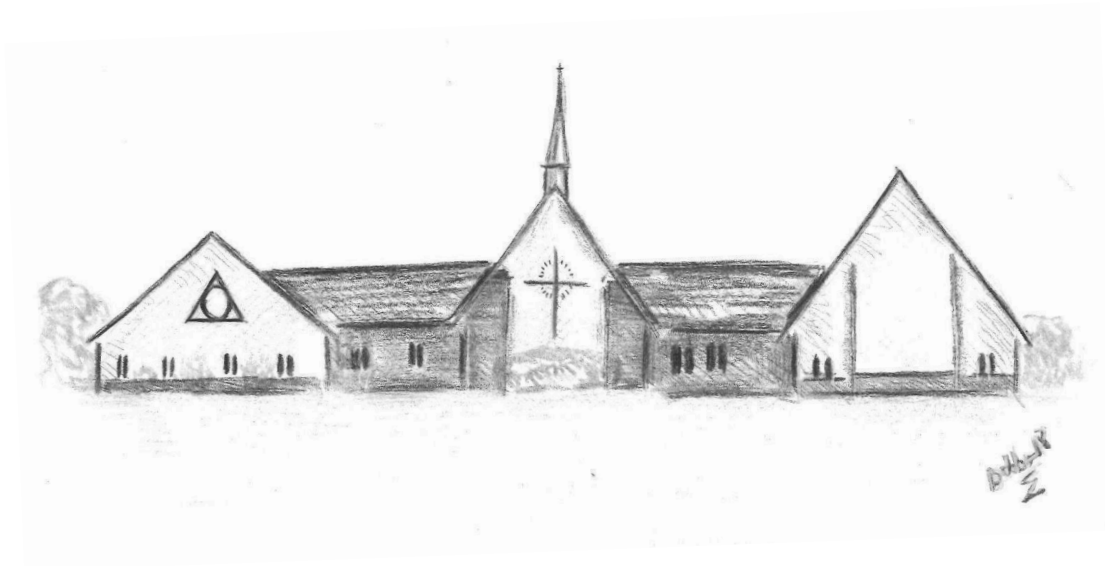


Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



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

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Edward Burgoon and in honor of their grandsons, Brady and Blake Burgoon by Lynne and Peter Schell.

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to all who are visiting today. Please complete a purple visitor's card which can be found on the clipboard in the pew chair in front of you, and place in the offering plate. May your hopes be restored, spirits lifted and your enthusiasm renewed when you visit here.

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Delaney Lacerte



- L** Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.
As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.
O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
- C** **let us travel on God's holy way
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**

ELW 240 Verse 1, 2 & 3

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
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

C **we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

P God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC OFFERING FROM TCNSK

GATHERING SONG

ELW 248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**
- P Please be seated.

WORD

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

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.]]

(Reading Continues on Next Page)

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146:5-10

- L ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- C ⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
- L ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
- C ⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
- L ⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- C ¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**
- P Please rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

7

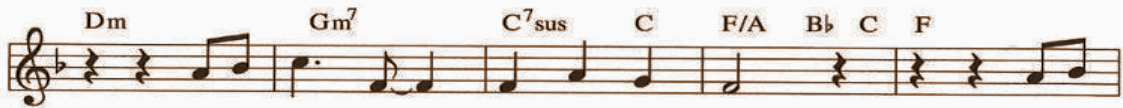
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le -



lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

P Please be seated.

SERMON

The Reverend Karen Nelson, Pastor

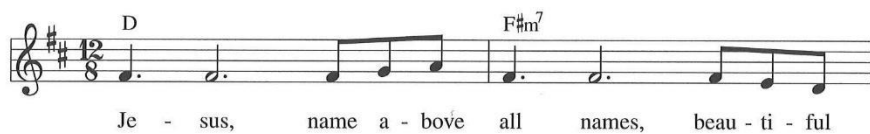
P Please rise.

SERMON HYMN

W&P 77

77

Jesus, name above all names



Text and music: Naida Hearn

Text and music © 1974 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.

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.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

L God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

L When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

L When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

L When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith.

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

For those in need of God's healing love and strength: Susan, Georgia, Tommy, Karen, Tom, Lori, John, Kailyn, Sue, Edward, John, Bob, Leslie, Melissa, Elaine, Gene, Lucas, Peggy, Anna, Marita, Tilly, Heather, Margie, Ray, Rick, Steve, Bob, Mike, Frank, Jim & Sharon.

For those in need of God's guidance, protection and strength:
Mark, Meg & Adam

In gratitude for God's abundance.

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one:

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

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

C God of grace,
receive our prayer.

L When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,
C **receive our prayer.**

L Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
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

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

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

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 70. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. Chords are indicated above the notes: Bb, Eb, F7, Bb, Eb, F, Bb, Bb7 for the first line, and Bb, Eb, F7, Bb, Gm, Gm/Eb, F, 1.Bb, 2.Eb Bb for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

- 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 Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

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

The musical score for the Sanctus is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 65 and a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics for the first staff are: "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord Go - d of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are". The second staff begins with a measure rest of 6 measures. The lyrics for the second staff are: "full of your glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est! Bless - ed is He who comes". The third staff begins with a measure rest of 11 measures. The lyrics for the third staff are: "i - n the name of the Lor - d Ho - sa - nna in the high - est!". Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am, F, Dm7, G, C, G for the first staff; Am, Em, F, Am, G, C, G, Am for the second staff; and F, Em, F, G, C for the third staff.

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

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

11 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.

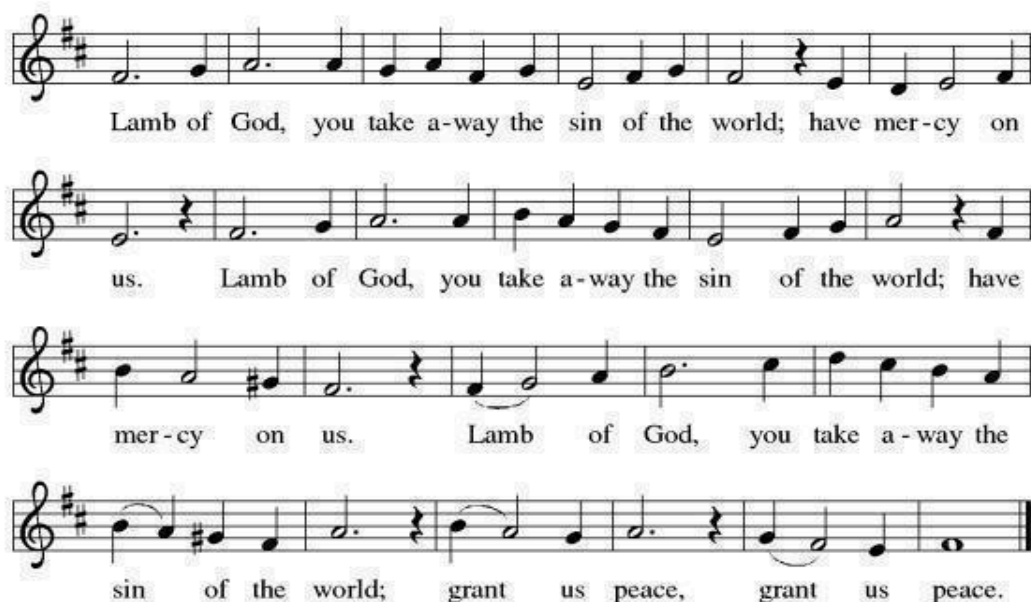
LORD'S PRAYER

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



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 God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

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 715 Verses 1, 2, & 5 repeat last chorus

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments:

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This week at Trinity

Wednesday December 17 at 7pm. Join us for a special Blue Christmas worship service

January 8 The TAG Games Group will resume meeting.

Looking Ahead

Christmas Eve: Join us for worship on Wednesday December 24 at 3 PM and 7 PM. Bring your family and friends for a beautiful candlelight service of prayer, praise and joyous music!

Stuffed Animal Update - 84 collected already! It's not too late to drop off a stuffed animal for our Gemma friends. Donations will be accepted through Monday, Dec. 15th. You may drop your gift off in the old narthex before or after worship today; during the food drive today between 1 - 3 pm; or to the church office on Monday between 10 am - 12 noon. Many thanks for your generous support this year!



Serving Today 12/14	
Lector	Francesca Burnett
Advent Candle Lighter	Delaney Lacerte
Greeter	Sally Jeffries
Communion Assistants	Chris & Rick Cole
Ushers	Alma & John Nowmos
Coffee Hour	Becky Shadle & Lynn Chialastri
Building Opener	Meg Smith
Altar Guild	Chris Cole
Counting Team	JoAnn Sorom, Betty Kratz, Trish Graves
Lector	
Serving Sunday 12/21	
Lector	Lynn Chialastri
Advent Candle Lighter	Andrew Keenan
Greeter	Emma Birkmire
Communion Assistants	Judy Flanigan & Ann Dungan
Ushers	Wilmer Cressman & Rick Cole
Coffee Hour	Ann Dungan & Anne Meibohm
Building Opener	Rick Cole
Altar Guild	Ann Dungan
Counting Team	JoAnn Sorom, Betty Kratz, Trish Graves





JOIN US FOR

Blue Christmas Worship

December 17 at 7 PM

A prayerful, come-as-you-are break from the busy season,
when Holly Jolly feelings are completely optional.

Join us in person or virtually.
The livestream link is available at www.trinityfairview.com

Trinity Lutheran Church Fairview Village
1190 Valley Forge Road | Norristown PA