

Christmas Eve

24th December, 2025



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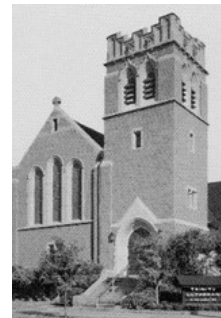
Downtown Campus: 401 5th St N – 5:00pm
Meadowlawn Campus: 1801 62nd Ave N – 7:00pm



Trinity Lutheran Church

Sharing the Love of Christ
by Serving and Welcoming Community

Welcome to Trinity!



Trinity Lutheran Church is the oldest congregation of our denomination on the west coast of Florida, founded in St Petersburg more than 110 years ago and still going strong!

Our downtown sanctuary was constructed in 1923; the windows come from Germany. Our Meadowlawn sanctuary was constructed in 1977; its altar is constructed of stones donated by members of the congregation.

Together, we are committed to creating a diverse community of faith that welcomes all of God's children, with all of their gifts and life experiences, one that allows for the sharing of opinions, questions, and doubts; that honors the full spectrum of gender, gender identity and sexual orientation; and that works for racial equity and economic justice.

Lutheran worship traditionally calls for a high level of participation. If you are unfamiliar with it, feel free to participate at your level of comfort. **If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.**

Holy Communion is offered to all people seeking God. You can remain in your seats or come to the altar for Communion.

Our whole service is printed on the following pages. Words spoken or sung by the people are **in bold type**.

*Join us for worship every Sunday
at 10:30 a.m.!*

On the first two Sundays of the month, we worship Downtown;
on all other Sundays, we worship at Meadowlawn.

(727) 822-3307 www.trinitylutheranstpete.org

Festive Candlelight Service with Holy Communion



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC



GATHERING HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

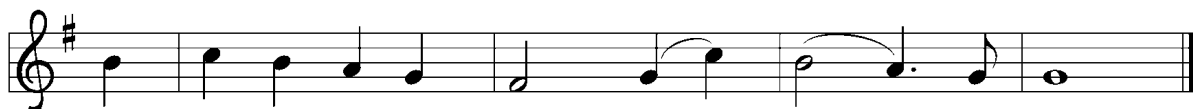


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

GREETING

Welcome to this celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God in human form, born as the son of Mary. God chose to be born into poverty and to experience oppression, and we are invited to welcome this vulnerable God into our lives and into our world.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Angels We Have Heard on High*



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we may walk in the light of your love and share that love with others; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



HYMN: *Away in a Manger*



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*



***Candles will be lit during the singing of this hymn;
 please do not tip a lighted candle!***



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908



GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord

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

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

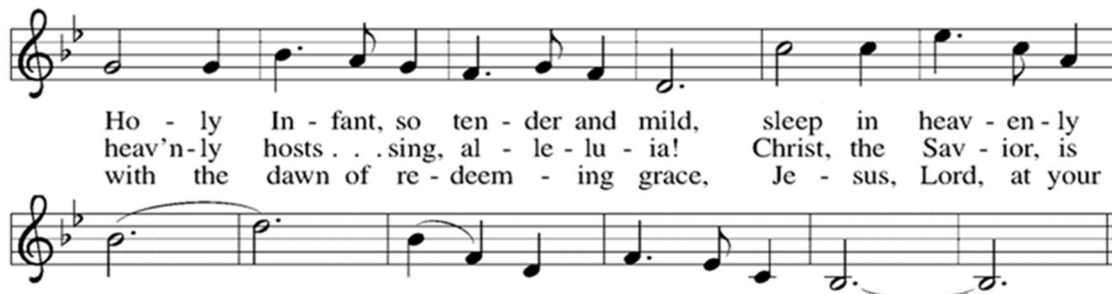
Praise to you, O Christ.



HYMN: *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



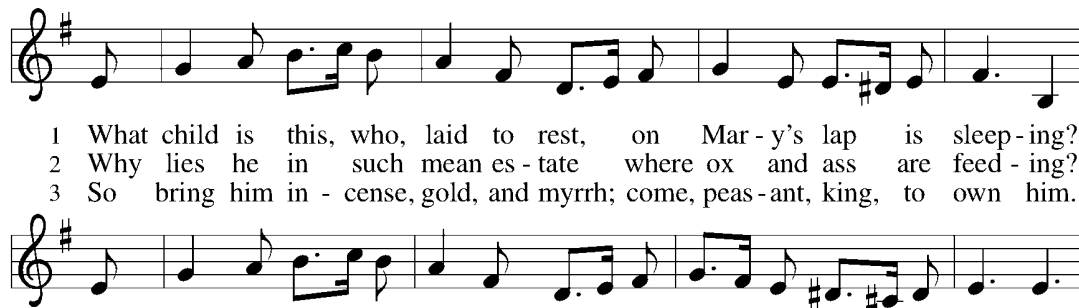
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Candles are extinguished!

SERMON

HYMN: *What Child is This?*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:

God of grace; **receive our prayer.**



HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



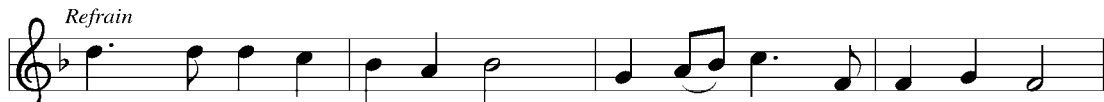
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

In the Word who has come to dwell with us,
God has given us grace upon grace:
forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,
love that can heal every broken heart.
Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:
in the name of ✠ Jesus our Savior,
you are free from all your sins.
Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen.**



SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Instead of putting a donation in the offering plate during the next hymn, you can use this QR code to make a contribution on our website; or you can mail an offering to the church.





OFFERING HYMN: *Sussex Carol*



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.

Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional



OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger.

You come to us again in bread and wine.

Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

And then, through these gifts,

help us to bless the lives of others

in the strength of your holy name. Amen.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let every heart receive your Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF COMMUNION

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Of the Father's Love Begotten



Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - en ere the worlds be-
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
This is he whom seers in old time chan-ted of with
O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
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 - cei - ving,
one ac - cord, whom the voi - ces of the pro - phets
prai - ses 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
bore the sa - vior of our race, and the
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he
and ex - tol our God and king; let no
and un - wea - ried prai - ses be: Ho - nor,



things that are, that have been, and that
babe, the world's re - deem - er, first re-
shines, the long - ex - pec - ted; let cre-
tongue on earth be si - lent, ev' - ry
glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e-



fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr composite

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th c.



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599



It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900



BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life. **Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength. **Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Joy to the World!*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with us.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*The poinsettias gracing the altar and sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God by the following:*



Carol Bertoluzzi in memory of Bert & Doris Bertoluzzi

*Channell Family: Clay, Audrey, Cameron, Luke, Noah, & Joseph
in memory of Gary & Rebecca Reitz, Lewis & Doris Nelson, and Gladys Nelson.*

Charlene Diefel in memory of Betty & Dempster Vissman and Myrtle Diefel

Alan Due in memory of Fred & Joyce Due

Bob & Linda Gascon in memory of the Traugott, Smith, Carter, and Ros families

Frances Guido in memory of her parents

Joe Haynsworth in memory of loved ones

Leah Heinicke in memory of Victor & Norma Heinicke

Ruth Kinsey in memory of Norm & her parents

Gerry Munger in memory of Helen Munger

New York in honor of Willie Rodriguez

Kelly Osborne

Roy Pringle in memory of Ken & Marion Pringle

Philip Rearick in memory of Annemarie Rearick

Carla Sajda in memory of John Sajda Jr. and Mr & Mrs Paul Kadlec

Patricia Shipley in honor of Donald Shipley and in memory of Tylor Orion Baker

*Bob & Vickie Skidmore in memory of Kaethe S. Skidmore, Charlotte E. Seibt, Lucie
Seibt, James Skidmore, Viola Little, and Vala Little Brown*

Tom & Marty Snapp in memory of loved ones

Donna Watson in memory of John Watson

Carol, Charlene, & Karen in memory of their friend, Arlene James

Our Christmas Tree

Our Christmas Tree is actually a Chrismon Tree. The word “Chrismon” (short for “Christian monogram”) refers to an ancient symbol for Jesus Christ or a part of his ministry. North American Lutherans have used Chrismon Trees since 1957; Frances Spencer and the women of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, created the first.

The evergreen tree is itself a symbol of the eternal life secured for each of us by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally, a Chrismon Tree is decorated only with white lights and Christian symbol ornaments hand-made from white and gold materials.

The Chrismons on Trinity’s tree were made by many members of our congregation. They make use of a variety of Christian symbols including:



The Star of David which reminds us that Jesus was Jewish.



The Crown of Thorns, a symbol of Jesus’ suffering and death.



The Butterfly, a symbol of the resurrection.



The Fiery Chariot, a symbol of Jesus’ ascension into heaven.



The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; Jesus is the beginning and the end.



The Shamrock symbolizes the Trinity: God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



The Cross and Circle are a symbol of Christ’s eternal reign over all the earth.



The first letters of “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior” spell *ichthus*, the Greek word for “fish.”



The Star of Bethlehem, which proclaimed the birth of Jesus.



The Dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.



The Anchor Cross, a symbol of hope and of the Church.



The Chi Rho uses the first two letters in the Greek word Christ, or Messiah.