

**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church**



**Contemporary Worship
Service
December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent**

Good Morning and Welcome! We invite you to worship with us often, and ask if you need any assistance! If you are visiting us today, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex, please include your address and phone number. Please place your offering envelope in the plate in the Narthex. Thank You!

Remember in your prayers:

Lynn Wolfgang, Oscar & Angie Smith, Erika Zaiser, Brandon Stauffer, Betty Moore, Barbara Stewart, Kathy Gamler, Bill Brensinger, Richard Eck, Becky Yescavage, BillyRay Pearce, Sr., Kathy Sell, Dennis Brooke, Donna Day, Linda Allmendinger, Elaine Dotterer, Jeff Reitnauer, Ralph Rothenberger, Anna Spencer, RuthAnn Goode, Pete Schmoyer, John Logan, Carole Mest, Bob McElwee, Tammy Strunk, Mary Snyder, Wendy Bowers, Linda Bewley, Sherri Schaeffer, Tammy Kemp, Mike Wyda, Marcia Auge and Millie Merkel.

Friends & Family:

Michelle Hiriak, Linda Stark, Martha Van Parys, Joyce Kemp, Linda Gilbert, Krista Buchert, Sandy Melcher, George Bayer, Dennis Weller, Dennis Groves, Jean Daley & Ariel Kim.

Families of:

Wanda Levengood, Donald Hays and John Moore.

Also members, relatives and friends in the community who are serving in the military including:

Christopher Heffner, BillyRay Pearce, Jr., Noah Heydt, Ben Rhode, Steven Herbst, David Crews, Jeff Lydic, Seth Kurtz, Clinton Bowen, Eli Abner and Johnne Knepp.

Our sister congregation, the Marienkirche in Borna, Germany.
(Website: Kirche-bornaer-land.de)

Please note: Names of friends and family will be kept on the bulletin prayer list for one month. If still in need of prayers, these names will then appear in the newsletter prayer list. Names on the friends and family list will only be kept on the newsletter prayer list for one year. If you wish for names to remain longer, please speak to Pastor Gene, Linda Ritter or contact the Church Office. Thank you for helping us keep the prayer list current!

Members of the Worship Team

Angie Renninger	Guitar
Kurt Yescavage	Trumpet
Pastor Zaiser	Guitar

Vocals By:

Mardell Blanford
Sharon Renninger
Janice Sheetz

December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday in Advent

The Altar Flowers are presented to the glory of God by Mrs. Sandy Schaffer, in Memory of her Husband Bob and in Honor of her Grandchildren: Blake & Riot and also by Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kuser, in Memory of her Parents, Paul & Alice Weller.

The Bulletins are presented to the glory of God by Mike & Maddy Wyda, in Memory of My Parents on their Wedding Anniversary and to the brave Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice at Pearl Harbor.

The Eternal Flame Candle is presented to the glory of God by Chester Heydt, in Memory of Esther, Lester & Janet Heydt.

- **Opening Song** “I Will Worship” Pg. 28

Announcements, Concerns, Praises: a time for congregation to lift up prayer requests and thanks.

- **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Loving God, we come before you this day to worship and praise you, yet we know that we have not always been the people you've wanted us to be. In our actions, our words, and our thoughts, we have often disappointed you by not loving and forgiving others as you would have us do. We come asking your forgiveness, knowing that you are merciful and loving, even when we are not.

C: **Dear Lord, have mercy on us. Do not count our wrongs against us, but rather forgive us for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Refresh our spirits, so that we can serve you and others as we ought to. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we might be forgiven. For his sake, God does not count our wrongs against us, but rather gives forgiveness and everlasting life to all who believe. Amen.

- **The 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.**

Worship Songs “Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing) Pg. 19
 “Here I Am, Lord” Pg. 21
 “Shout to the Lord” Pg. 44

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
 or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
 and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
 the calf and the lion will feed together,
 and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
 nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Presentation of the Gospel by Heart

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Sermon

- **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again 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**

Prayer of the People

Communion

Closing Songs “Breathe” Pg. 8
 “Be Glorified” Pg. 5

- **Mission Statement and Sending**

P People of Trinity, what is our mission?

C We shall, as individuals and as a congregation, strive through word, worship, and witness to further the kingdom of God by knowing and sharing Christ’s Love in our hearts, in our homes, in His church, in the community, and in the world.

- **Sending**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

November Update on Church Financial Status From The Finance Committee:

As will be reported in the next Newsletter (Financial Reports Section), the General Fund now has a **Positive** balance of \$949 - this is a significant improvement from Negative \$1817 at the end of September, and from when we started examining and communicating this back in May (Negative \$13,772). The October improvement was due to the successful Craft Show and additional help across the congregation.

Thank you to all responsible for this dramatic improvement - it has been a "team" effort!

Now.....Let's keep this positive momentum going, and if you haven't reviewed the following and taken action, please consider doing so as we approach the end of the year.

Our request for your consideration :

The committee has met 4 times this year to discuss and is asking all members to consider the following actions to help us continue to recover from the current situation:

- Increase your giving - even a small increase by many will help.
- Start to buy, or increase your purchases of, Gift Cards from the church on the 1st Sunday of each month. The church receives a % of each sale.
- Review the Simply Giving program and consider setting up automated donations to the church which helps smooth the income stream over the whole year, and makes your giving easier and typically more consistent.
- Support fundraisers and special events at the church - note that not all fundraisers and events benefit the General Fund.

If you own products through Thrivent that generate Thrivent Choice Dollars, consider directing them to our church as we generally receive over \$1000 of Thrivent Choice Dollars per year.

Kindly consider how you can help, with respect to your current individual or family situation.

If you have already done or are doing these, we thank you for your prayerful consideration and any resulting actions.

The Finance Committee thanks everyone for their financial support of the church and our 2025 budget along with all other donations and contributions you are providing to the church to support our mission.

The committee will continue to monitor our Financial situation closely and will communicate further as needed.

If you have any questions related to this information, please reach out to a Finance Committee member as listed in the monthly newsletter, or chairperson Kurt Yescavage.

THANK YOU to Dennis Brooke and Shelly Fullwood and Family for sponsoring the Christmas Tree in Memory of Ruth Brooke and in Honor of Brady, Sallyann, and William Fullwood. Thank You to Bobby Eshbach, Howard Shafer, and Dennis Schaeffer for transporting and setting up the tree and to everyone who helped to decorate the church for Christmas. Please join us on Monday, January 5 at 6:00PM to take down Christmas decorations.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO All who supported the ShoeFly Pies & Pumpkin Rolls. There were 131 pies & pumpkin rolls sold. \$344.00 went to the General Fund. Thank You also to Linda Brunner & Diane McElwee for organizing this fundraiser!

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for TODAY, Sunday, December 7th, immediately following the 10:30 service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect council members for 2026 and to consider the proposed budget for 2026. The Finance Committee with Church Council approval will be discussing the proposed church budget for 2026. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Christmas Cantata, "Favorite Christmas Selections, Through the Years", will be Sunday, December 14th at the 10:30AM Worship Service. There will be a Potluck Luncheon following the Cantata. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Snow Date and Encore Presentation is Sunday, January 4th at 3:00PM.

Attic Treasures— Christmas items you are no longer using, please donate for the Christmas Cantata Party Games. Donations can be left in the Choir Room. Thank you for your donation.

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic, will be hosting a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 14th, 3PM-6PM, featuring an uplifting evening of classic Christmas Carols performed by the talented pianist Jill Watkins, followed by a heartwarming visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Homemade cookies will be available.

The TLC Stitchers has a table set up in the Parish Hall with many items that are available for free or a donation would be greatly appreciated. **Today is the last day the items will be available.**

POINSETTIAS and LUMINARIES: TODAY is the last day to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve. The price is \$10 (Single-branched 6½" pot, 5 blooms +). Envelopes are available in the narthex. Please write your name, specify color (pink, red or white), and who your order is in memory or honor of. **Labeled luminaries** will be set out for the Christmas Eve services. Envelopes are available to reserve a luminary, one for \$3 or two for \$5, in honor or in memory of loved ones. **Luminary orders are due December 14.** Please place envelopes in offering plates.

Angel Tree: Trinity is once again participating in the Angel Tree project for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Return the gift unwrapped. Gift bags/wrapping paper included with your gift is greatly appreciated. Please put the tag with your gift. Thank you for your participation in making a child's Christmas brighter this year. **Gifts and Tags must be returned by Sunday, December 7th. Thank you for making a child's Christmas brighter! A Special Thank You to Waynette Shafer for organizing this event and making the angels.**

The deadline for the January Newsletter is Sunday, December 14th (week earlier due to Christmas week), please submit your information to Karen in the church office.

Prayer List: Any changes to the prayer list, please contact Linda Ritter, Pastor Gene or the church office, in order for the change to be made in the January Newsletter.

Santa in the Park-Saturday, December 13, Noon, Bechtelsville Community Park. Come visit Santa and his friends at the park and enjoy some free hot chocolate and popcorn. Children will receive a small gift on behalf of Trinity.

All are invited to our Longest Night service on Thursday, December 18th, at 7PM. It is a service of comfort and healing for all who are trying to celebrate the holidays this year while in the midst of loss and grief. Those of you who have attended the service in other years know how beautiful and uplifting it is, so please make plans to attend.

Christmas Card Bags for our Homebound Members are now on the table in the Parish Hall until Sunday, December 21st, for the following: Linda Allmendinger, Richard Eck, Kathy Gamler, Janet Kehl, Dorothy Romig, Ralph Rothenberger, Barbara Stewart and Becky Yescavage.

Christmas Eve Services: Please join us for services of candlelight and Holy Communion at 3 PM and 8 PM.

2026 Sign Up Sheets are now posted:
Bulletin Sponsors....Eternal Flame Candle Sponsor (you may do so in memory/honor of. Please Note: Price has increased to \$34.00)
Eternal Flame Candle Volunteer Sheet (This is to light the candle each week for 1 month.) Sign Up Sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

You may sponsor Altar Flowers, the cost is \$32.00 for one vase and \$64.00 for 2 vases, please contact Mary Snyder. If you wish to sponsor flowers and that date is not available, you can always sponsor an extra bouquet of flowers for \$40.00. When sponsoring flowers, please use a flower envelope found in the rack in the narthex or clearly mark the envelope "Flowers". If you sponsored flowers in the past but no longer wish to, please let Mary Snyder 610-473-8885 or the church office know. You may also sponsor the bulletins for \$15.00 per week, this helps offset the cost of printing them.

Trinity's Gift Card Program - Gift card orders are accepted before and after the church service the first Sunday of each month and distributed the second Sunday. Order forms for Redners, Giant and Raise Right (for other retail gift cards) are available in the narthex. The Raise Right order form is also available for download on Trinity's website. Payment must be submitted with your order. **Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and include your phone number on your order form.** If you have any questions regarding this fund raising program please see Sharon Kemp, Kathy Kuser or Kurt Yescavage.

WAWA Hoagie Coupons Available 1st Sunday of the month at the Scrip Table. Coupons are also available in the church office Monday—Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00PM. Tickets are \$5.00. This project benefits the Social Ministry.

Scout Troop 511 Hoagie Sales: Pick up will be Wednesday, December 10th. 8" hoagies are made from Dan's Deli, **Cost is \$7.00.** There are ham w/onion, ham no onion, turkey w/onion, turkey no onion, Italian w/onion, Italian no onion, cheese hoagie w/onion, cheese hoagie no onion, mayo, Italian dressing, no tomatoes, no lettuce, no cheese. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Winter Weather In the event of inclement winter weather, news of cancellations or postponements of church activities will be posted on the following: 1) Channel 69 2) Online at WFMZ.com, or log on to the Trinity's website: www.trinitybech.com

The 2026 General Fund Envelopes are on the table in the Parish Hall, please pick up your envelopes.

The Updated Church Directory is on the table in the Narthex, please take one.

Bibles are available in the rack in the Narthex for you to reference during worship. You may also take home to reference, please return when you are finished.

HOSPITAL INPATIENT STAY: Please contact Pastor Gene if you are admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, due to privacy laws, the hospital no longer contacts the church.

Social Ministry provides meals for shut-ins/members who are in need of meals. If a meal is needed, please contact Kathy Kuser at 610-754-6293.

Need a ride? We have volunteers in the congregation who are willing to provide transportation to medical appointments, etc., for those who can't find a ride. Please contact Pastor Gene 610-322-0901 if you need a ride or would like to volunteer as a driver.

Monthly Free-will Offerings 2025

December – No free-will offering. Thank you for supporting the various Christmas giving opportunities.

Trinity's events for the upcoming week:

Sunday, December 7th- 8:00 Cont. Worship Serv.
w/Communion
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service
w/Communion
Congregational Mtg.

Monday, December 8th- 6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, December 9th- 6:30 Scouts
7:00 Church Council Mtg.

Wednesday, December 10th- 2:00 Discipleship Comm. Mtg

Thursday, December 11th- 6:30 Sr. Choir Practice
7:30 Cantata Practice

Saturday, December 13th- 10:00 Cantata Rehearsal

Sunday, December 14th- 9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Cantata
Potluck Luncheon

Next Week's Worship Assistants:**Sunday, December 14th:****(Christmas Cantata)**

Ushers: Dan & Kathy Kuser
Pole Candles: Howard & Waynette Shafer

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS: 11/30/2025

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>		
<u>Worship/S.S.</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Hunger</u>	<u>Scrip</u>
65/20	\$2,224.00	\$55.00	\$2,265.00
	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Bldg. Maint.</u>	
	0	0	

**The Community Clothing Rack
Schedule**

1st Wednesday
Donations Accepted

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays
Shoppers Welcome

2nd Thursday
Shoppers Welcome
6:00PM-8:00PM

5th Wednesday
CLOSED

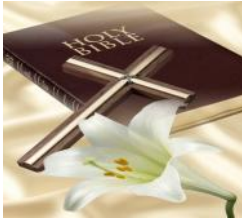
Hours
1:00PM-4:00PM

Summer Hours Only
June-August
9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed on all major holidays.
In the case of inclement weather,
Refer to Boyertown Area School district closure.
CCR is a ministry of St. Luke Lutheran Church
Our mission is to serve Jesus Christ by providing
necessary clothing to the underserved.

www.StLukeGilbertsville.org

Readings for Personal Devotion



M 1 Samuel 28:3-19
T 2 Samuel 21:1-14
W Luke 17:20-37
Th Ezekiel 10:1-19
F 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
Sa Psalm 141

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Eugene C. Zaiser, DMin.,
Pastor

Ms. LaRue Sheetz, Director of Music
Mrs. Karen J. Smith, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Catherine M. Yoder, Sexton
The Members of this Congregation are
its Ministers

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(Or by Appointment)

1749 South Main Street, Bechtelsville, PA
19505
610-369-1281

Church Office E-Mail:
trinitybech@outlook.com

Pastor Zaiser's E-Mail:
pastorzaiser@outlook.com

Website: www.trinitybech.com

I Will Worship

By David Ruis

I will worship (echo)

With all of my heart (echo)

I will praise You (echo)

With all of my strength (All my strength)

I will seek You (echo)

All of my days (echo)

I will follow (echo)

All of Your ways (All Your ways)

Chorus:

I will give You all my worship,

I will give You all my praise.

You alone I long to worship,

You alone are worthy of my praise.

I will bow down (echo)

Hail You as King (echo)

I will serve You (echo)

Give You everything (give You everything)

I will lift up (echo)

My eyes to Your throne (echo)

And I will trust You (echo)

I will trust You alone (Trust You alone)

Chorus

Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)

By Brian Doerkson & Brenton Brown

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging
Your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet
Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me

Chorus:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Your love makes me sing
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Your love makes me sing

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me
Every time I see you, all Your goodness shines
through
And I can feel this God song, rising up in me

Chorus

Here I Am Lord

21

By Michael Hagerty

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus:

Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

© 1989 GMH Publishing

Shout to the Lord

By Darlene Zschech

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like
You.

All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and
strength

Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

8

Breathe

by Marie Barnett

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for you
And I, I'm ~~desperate for~~ you
lost without

Be Glorified

By Louie Giglio & Chris Tomlin

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life, the air I breathe
Be glorified in me (repeat)

Chorus:

You set my feet to dancing
You set my heart on fire
In the presence of a thousand kings
You are my one desire
And I stand before You now
With trembling hands lifted high
Be glorified

Be glorified in me, be glorified in me
Be glorified in me, be glorified in me

