

**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church**



**Contemporary Worship
Service
December 21, 2025
4th 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, Millie Merkel and Sandy Schaffer.

Friends & Family:

Michelle Hiriak, Linda Stark, Martha Van Parys, Joyce Kemp, Linda Gilbert, Dennis Weller, Dennis Groves, Ariel Kim, Tanner Antalosky, David Turner, Scott Thomas and Rev. Michael Ware.

Families of:

Donald Hays, John Moore and Jean Daily.

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 21, 2025
4th Sunday in Advent

The Altar Flowers are presented to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Leiby, in Memory of Loves Ones and also by Mr. Chester Heydt, in Memory of Esther, Lester & Janet Heydt.

The Bulletins are presented to the glory of God in Memory of Jerry & Carolyn Bryce.

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

- **Opening Song** “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

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 “One Name Under Heaven” Pg. 38
 “I Believe in Jesus” Pg. 26
 “Start a Fire”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Presentation of the Gospel by Heart

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

Closing Songs “Better Is One Day” Pg. 6
 “Light the Fire Again” Pg. 32

- 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

December Update on Church Financial Status From The Finance Committee:

The latest monthly report from the Treasurer's shows:

-The General Fund has a Negative Balance

-During November 2025, the General Fund decreased \$2,532 from \$949 to -\$1,583.

Please see the report and additional details including suggested action items from the Finance Committee in the Newsletter, which is available by mail or on the church website.

Questions or input? Kindly 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.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO FOR THE Christmas Card Bags for our Homebound Members: Richard Eck, Kathy Gamler, Janet Kehl, Dorothy Romig, Ralph Rothenberger and Becky Yescavage. If you are able, please take the bag to a Homebound Member, they would love to see you and visit.

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

December 28, 2025 – 1st Sunday of Christmas — Please join us at 10:30 for a sermon-in-song by Pastor Gene.

Please join us for an Encore Presentation of our Christmas Cantata, on Sunday, January 4th at 3PM.

The deadline for the Annual Report is Sunday, January 4th, please submit your report to Karen in the Church Office.

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: Orders are due by Tuesday, January 6th and pick up will be Wednesday, January 14th. 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

Coffee Hour - Volunteers are needed to host Coffee Hour for January & February. Please sign up for this time of Fellowship. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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 21st-	8:00 Cont. Worship Service
	9:15 Sunday School
	10:30 Worship Service w/Communion
Monday, December 22nd-	6:30 Scouts
Tuesday, December 23rd-	6:30 Scouts
Wednesday, December 24th-	Christmas Eve
	3:00 & 8:00PM
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services w/Communion
Sunday, December 28th-	9:15 Sunday School
	10:30 Worship Services

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS: 12/14/2025

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
<u>Worship</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Hunger</u>
88	\$2,208.00	0
	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Bldg. Maint.</u>
	0	\$125.00

Christmas Eve 3:00PM Worship Assistants:

Assisting Minister: Diane McElwee
Server: Jenn McCarron
Ushers: Kay McGowan* & Randy Kehl
Lector: Mardell Blanford
Acolyte: Jenn McCarron
Crucifer: Bob McElwee
Polo Candles: Rich Deskie & Dennis Schaeffer
Banner Bearer: Mark Sheetz

Christmas Eve 8:00PM Worship Assistants:

Assisting Minister: Erika Zaiser
Server: Diane McElwee
Ushers: Dennis Schaeffer* & Bob McElwee
Lector: Sheila Eddinger
Acolyte: Vicki Mest
Crucifer: Bob McElwee
Polo Candles: Connor & Drevyn Deskie
Banner Bearer: Jenn McCarron

**Next Week's Worship Assistants:
Sunday, December 28th**

Ushers: Sharon Renninger* & Mardell Blanford
Lector: Janice Sheetz
Acolyte: Mark Sheetz

**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

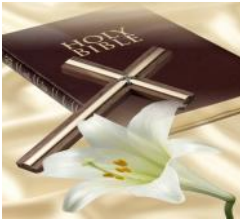
Hours
1:00PM-4:00PM

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 Isaiah 9:2-7
T Isaiah 62:6-12
W Luke 2:1-20
Th Isaiah 9:2b-7
F Psalm 96
Sa Genesis 1:1--2:4a

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

One Name Under Heaven

By Robert Kritchley

One name under heaven

Whereby we must be saved (repeat)

Forgiven of my sin

Baptized in the water

Filled with the Holy Ghost

And washed in the blood of the Lamb (repeat)

Free, really free my friend

Freed by the blood of the Lamb (repeat)

God's gonna move this place

God's gonna move this place

God's gonna turn this world upside down (repeat)

I Believe in Jesus

By Marc Nelson

I believe in Jesus,
I believe He is the Son of God;
I believe He died and rose again.
I believe He paid for us all.
And I believe He's here now,
Standing in our midst.
Here with the power to heal now
And the grace to forgive.

I believe in You, Lord,
I believe You are the Son of God;
I believe You died and rose again,
I believe You paid for us all.
And I believe You're here now,
(I believe that You're here,)
Standing in our midst.
Here with the power to heal now,
(Here with the power to heal)
And the grace to forgive.

Better is One Day

By Matt Redman

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
My soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus:

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere. (Repeat)
(Than thousands elsewhere.)

One thing I ask and I would seek; to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Chorus

Bridge:

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God;
Your Spirit's water for my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me;
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You.

Chorus

Light the Fire Again

By Brian Doerksen

Don't let my love grow cold
I'm calling out, light the fire again
Don't let my vision die
I'm calling out, light the fire again.

You know my heart, my deeds
I'm calling out, light the fire again
I need your discipline
I'm call out, light the fire again

I am here to buy gold
Refined in the fire
Naked and poor
Wretched and blind I come
Clothe me in white
So I won't be ashamed
Lord, light the fire again.

