

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
and Lutheran Campus Ministry  
300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC  
919-942-2678 | [holytrinitychapelhill.org](http://holytrinitychapelhill.org)



Christmas Eve Family Service  
December 24, 2025 — 4:00pm In-person

Holy Trinity is “Mask-Friendly” for all in-person activities.

Whichever your preference regarding mask usage, you are welcome here.

We celebrate an open table for Holy Communion. Please see the back page for more information. Please note that our 8pm service is Livestreamed and broadcast on our YouTube channel.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Eno, Lumbee, Shakori, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora peoples, and we acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called and continue to call this land their home.

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

### GATHERING DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Come, Light of Life

by John Harvey

Lord, in the beginning  
when all was very dark, you said:  
'Let there be light.'  
And there was light  
and life throughout the universe.

And when the human race  
was exhausted, tired and weary,  
in the darkness of anxiety,  
confusion and sin,  
into the darkness you came  
as light in Jesus Christ.  
God became a human being among us all.

Once again it is dark.  
Not just dark at midnight  
but dark with doubt,  
dark with fear and uncertainty,  
dark with confusing  
and conflicting voices in our ears.

As we light the Christ candle we pray,  
**Come, Light of life,  
lighten the darkness in our lives  
with your mighty word of love.  
Lighten our hearts with the joy  
of your promised coming.  
Lighten our world with the hope  
that faith in you still brings. Amen.**

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!

## 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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



## Verse 1

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.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

<sup>8</sup>Now in that same 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. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup>and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

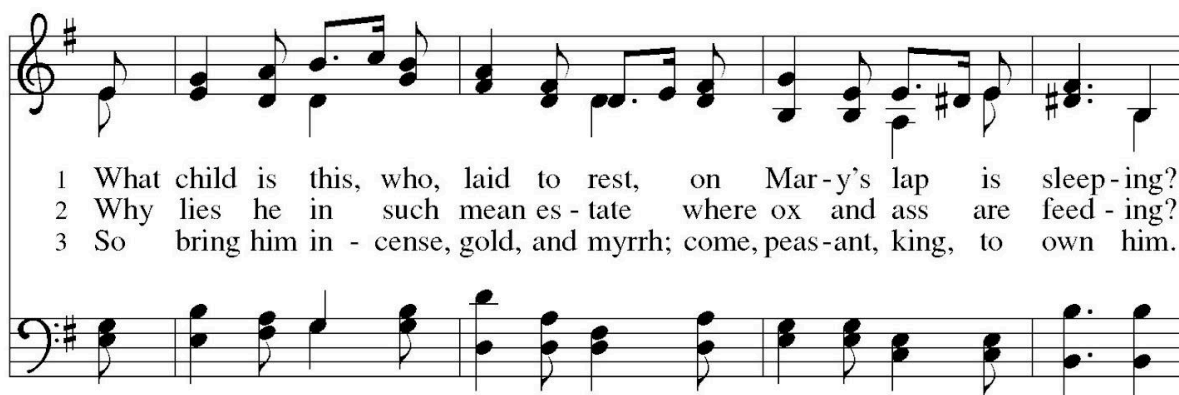
## CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Angels We Have Heard On High  
Verse 3

ELW #289

## CHRISTMAS SERMON

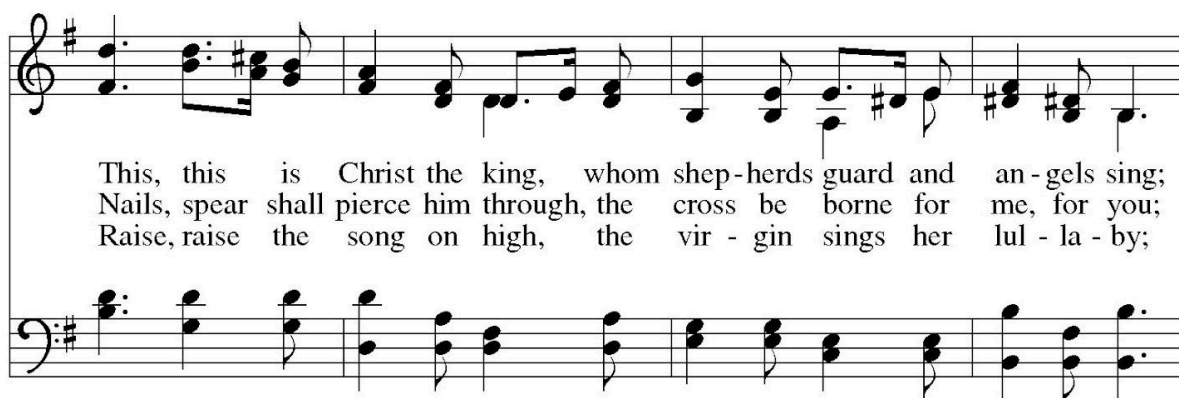
Pastor Will Rose



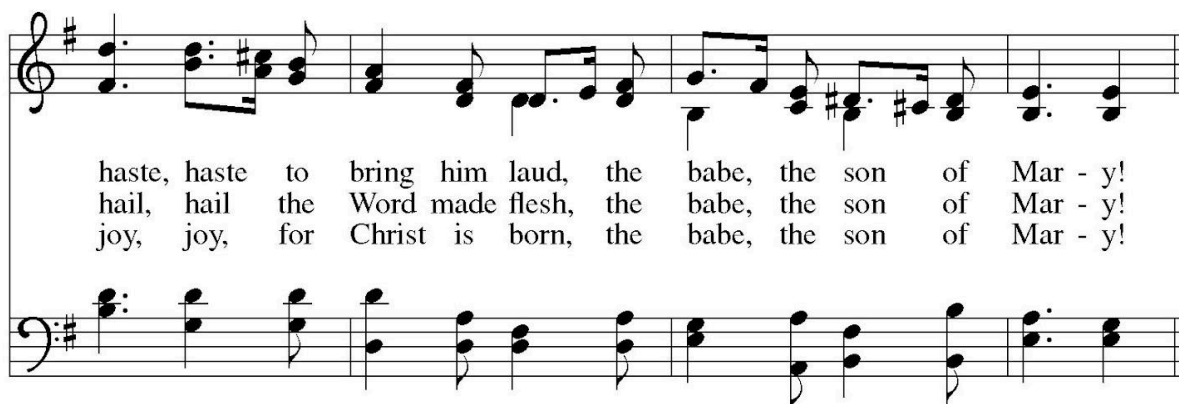
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



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

### PEACE

The peace of Emmanuel, God with us, is with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING ANTHEM



#### I Wonder As I Wander

arr. Mark Hayes

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall  
with wise men and farmers and shepherd and all.  
but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
and the promise of ages it did then recall.*

### PRAYER AFTER OFFERING

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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:

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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.

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

**Our Father in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be your name,**  
    **your kingdom come,**  
    **your will be done,**  
        **on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
    **as we forgive those**  
        **who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial**  
    **and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
    **and the glory are yours,**  
    **now and forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

**Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

### Away in a Manger

ELW #277



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 -



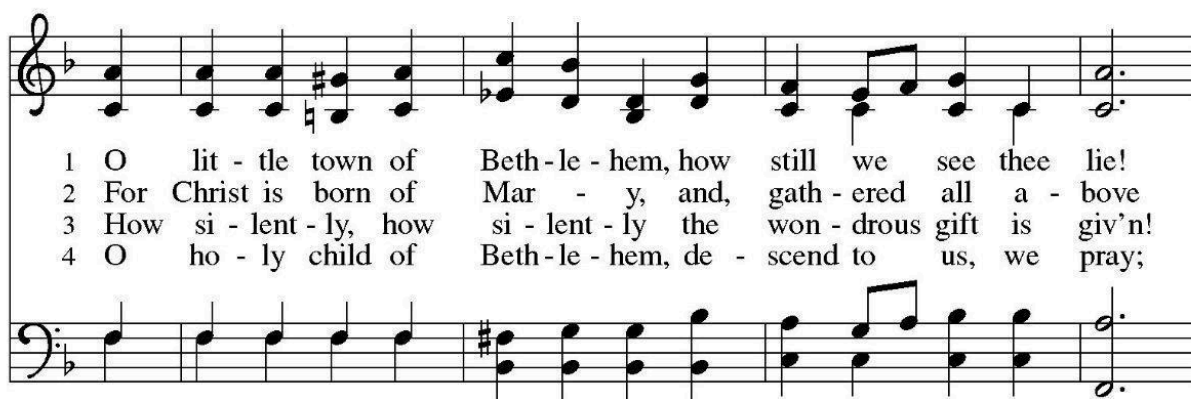
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



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



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts

the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### CANDLE LIGHTING

*The assembly stands as the light of Christ is passed during the hymn.*

*Please keep the lit candle upright and tilt the unlit candle towards the flame.*

### CANDLELIGHT HYMN

### Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW #281

*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
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,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
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,

*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
*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*

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
*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

## BENEDICTION

The triune God,  
 glorious Mystery,  
 holy Incarnate One,  
 abiding Comforter,  
 ☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

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

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

arr. Mark Hayes



Merry Christmas!  
Thank you for worshiping with us!

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Come, Light of Life by John Harvey: *Candles & Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent*. Ruth Burgess. Wild Goose Publications: Glasgow. 2005.

The Assisting Minister is Holly Shipley.  
The Altar Guild and Communion Assistants are Jan and Kirby Gottschalk.  
The Lector is Paige Krier.

## **Poinsettias and LWR 2025**

### **Poinsettias**

Given by Sylvia and Fred Black in honor of our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry staff

Given by The Brodey Family in memory of Ene Marie Thomsen

Given by The Brodey Family in memory of Warren Mortimer Brodey

Given by Sylvia Whitley in memory of loved ones

Given by Tom and Gail Colley in honor of our Church Family

Given by Anna Marie Drake in honor of the Christ Child

Given by Roberta Barrett in memory of my dear friend, Judy Kalleberg

Given by Roberta Barrett in honor of and thankfulness for my children: James and Sharon, Paul and Cheri, Lia and Rob

Given by Marge Freiman in memory of Loved Ones

Given by Glen and Peggy Lehmann

### **LWR**

Given by Gretchen Ritola in memory of Robert Schlichter (father)

Given by Sylvia and Fred Black in honor of our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry staff

Given by Patrick Weede in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Benton

Given by Patrick Weede in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Weede, Sr.

Given by Patrick Weede in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Weede, Jr.

Given by Eric and Marty Larson in memory of our parents

Given by Anna Marie Drake in honor of the Christ Child

Given by Roger Lundblad in honor of my daughters, Christy Smith and Cindy Maciariello

Given by Marge Freiman in memory of Loved Ones




MAY THE MIRACLE OF THIS HOLY NIGHT  
BLESS YOU AT CHRISTMAS AND ALWAYS

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WE WILL HAVE ONE SERVICE  
ON DEC. 28<sup>TH</sup> AT 10AM

Sunday School resumes January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am.

Contact Pastor Will if you're interested in our  
new member class in 2026.



Parish Pastor	Rev. William N. Rose III prwill@holytrinitychapelhill.org	(803) 237-6356
Campus Pastor	Rev. Katie Elkin Ziehr prkatie@holytrinitychapelhill.org	(704) 773-6557
Minister of Discipleship	Deacon Holly Shipley hshipley@holytrinitychapelhill.org	(859) 433-5102
Director of Worship and Music	Megan Mash mmash@holytrinitychapelhill.org	(816) 223-1953
Operations Coordinator	Grace French htlc@holytrinitychapelhill.org	(919) 942-2678
Financial Records Assistant	Toni Lehman	(919) 942-2678
Pastor Emeritus in Chaplaincy	Rev. Claude Deal	
Ministry Center & Mailing Address	300 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514	
Worship Center	227 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Office: (919) 942-2678	
Office Hours	Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Friday 9:00am- 1:00pm	

In case of emergency, please call either Pastor directly.  
[www.holytrinitychapelhill.org](http://www.holytrinitychapelhill.org)  
Instagram: @unc\_lcm @htlc\_youth @holytrinitychapelhill  
Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran – Chapel Hill  
YouTube: Holy Trinity Chapel Hill

## Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry!

We are so glad you chose to worship with us, and we hope you experience the love and grace of God in our midst. Please fill out the “Worship Record Sheet” to record your attendance and explore ways to engage with our community of faith by using the QR code or paper sheet.

Please sign up for our weekly Email Newsletter by visiting our website at [www.holytrinitychapelhill.org](http://www.holytrinitychapelhill.org), and subscribe to our YouTube channel at “Holy Trinity Chapel Hill”. Let us know if you have any prayer requests and how we can support you in your faith journey, either by talking to a Pastor or a Stephen Minister.



### Reconciling In Christ

Jesus reached across all boundaries to make God’s love known, and in our baptismal covenant we are called to “serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (ELW pg. 236).” As a Reconciling In Christ church, we at Holy Trinity welcome people of every age and ability, race, culture, religion, class, marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

### Children and Worship

We welcome children in worship and invite them to participate throughout the service. Children are invited to check out our Exploration Station in the Narthex and fill up a Busy Bag for activities during worship. If your child needs some time away from the service, there is a staffed “Cry Room” (glass room near the Sanctuary, towards the Rosemary Street entrance). The service is able to be heard through speakers in the Cry Room. There is also a Nursery room in the back hallway (behind the organ) where children can play with parental supervision.

### Holy Communion

At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Believing in the real presence of Christ, HTLC practices Eucharistic hospitality: The Risen Christ welcomes all, therefore all are welcome to commune here. Receive the bread first, then the individual glasses containing (red) wine or (white) grape juice. Allergen-free communion wafers are available at the station in front of the altar. Those desiring not to commune may fold their hands to receive a blessing. Please let an usher or pastor know if you need communion brought to you at your seat.

### Offering

In response to God’s unconditional love, we offer “what God has first given us; ourselves, our time and our possessions... in feeding the world with God’s love (ELW pg. 107).”

There are many ways to give at Holy Trinity: online through our **website**, **mailing in** your offering, placing your offering in our **offering plates** in our Worship Center, automatic **bank withdraws**, through the **QR code** in this worship bulletin, **text to give** at (833) 309-0136, or by **Venmo**, our **handle is @htlclcm** (Charity - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church). All contributions via text or Venmo will go to the HTLC general budget fund. Thank You!

### Lutheran Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity

LCM is a community where ALL are welcome. We seek to accompany students as they encounter increased complexities in life, faith, relationships, and academics here at UNC. If you are (or you know) a student who is interested in getting connected with Campus Ministry, please get in touch with Pastor Katie by emailing her directly, or by using the QR code above to fill out the Worship Record Sheet. Mark “student” and/or “grad student,” leave an email/phone number, and Pastor Katie will reach out!