

Greetings, favored one!
*The Lord is
with you*

LUKE 1:28



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Mr. James Landis, Interim Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

The Advent Wreath: One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of Greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself.

Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. *Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.*

Prayer: *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed is tiny Bethlehem, from which shall come the ruler of Israel.

Blessed is Mary, who believed in the fulfillment of God's word.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is God, who gives us the gift of peace.

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come take your place at the table.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

As we gather around the Advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts when we sing songs of joy.

Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for humankind.

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

With the coming of this light there is love. Such great love helps us to love God and one another.

Let us pray together.

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

John the Baptist calls us to repent, to prepare for the coming of God's reign.

Let us heed John's call and confess our sins in silent prayer.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God, you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Let us pray together.

Eternal God, whom we have glimpsed in Christ Jesus, extend your revelation to us today. Draw us deeper into covenant with you, sustaining us by your steadfast love and faithfulness. May we know your discipline, and your favor, both in worship and in our daily living. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house(dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALTER

Luke 1:46b-55 Mary's Magnificat

**My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; For behold,
henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; Because He who is
mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name;**

**And His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.
He has shown might with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the
conceit of their heart.**

**He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the
lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

“Chosen by God!”

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come

again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Holy God, you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ. You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself. Out of all these blessings, we give back these offerings this day. Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge with our lives to you in anticipation of the coming of the One who brings us peace. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is very right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love and for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. Born of your servant Mary, Jesus shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. As we now await the birth of the Christ child, we offer you our hymn of praise.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

AGNUS DEI

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace. Amen.

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill. Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration. Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of ministries that assist in setting up new homes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by Cherie Cataldi in memory of my wonderful father, Bob Price. We love you and so miss your smile, laugh, and hugs!

The Worship Aids are given by Charlene Cristy. Merry Christmas wishes.

Happy Birthday

Today – Penny Kilgore

Tuesday – Judy Chapman

Friday – Kathleen Adams

Attendance for Sun., December 17	7:45–17	10:30–79	TOTAL – 96
Christian Education	19		

Ministering Today

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector/Assistant	Diane Rice
Money Counters	Charlene Cristy, Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk, Bob Bistline
Altar Guild	Nancy Enders, Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy
Building Trustee	Nevin Cooley
Koinonia	Christian Education Committee
Ministries	Card Advent Workshop
	Called to Care Nancy Enders
	Visitation Janice Jenkins

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:45 AM - Koinonia

10:30 AM – Eucharist-Service of Lessons & Carols

PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Michael McDonough

Don & Pat Miller

The Lehman family

Donna Wolf & Family

Stan & Pat Seachrist

Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley

Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser

Betty Tyndall and family

Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline

Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Joann & Dawn Garvin

Pastor Harry Royer

John Shelsky

Nancy Patton

Joann Peck

Shelly Family

Donna Zirkel

Sam Minder III

Hank Fox

Mary Witmer

Erika Otthofer

Ron Becker

Dr. Blaine Connor

Hedwig Hunsicker

Scott & Jane Owens

Dr. Janet Harriger

Harry Himelwright

Mary Lou Shaab

Carmen & Jerry Richards

Lainie Christensen

Charles & Betty Booraem

Bob & Marlyn Wible

Kathleen Sensenig Adams

Danielle Huggins Holbein

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of Rev. Dr. Richard Vieth (Professor Emeritus at Lancaster Seminary)

Dan Doughton (Family friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)

Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)

Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)

Paul Melton (requested by Michael & Dina Slechta)

Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)

Bill Zahm (brother of Phyllis Zimmerman)

Mary Mattern Smith (cousin of Anita Rohrer)

Deb Olley Heagy (daughter of Jack & Karen Olley)

Donna Esbenshade (wife of Rev. Jack Esbenshade)

The Haverstick Family (friends of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)

Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)

Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)

Jaden Allen (nephew of Carol Kratz)

Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)

The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)

Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)

Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)
Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)
Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),
Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NORTH WINDOW is given in memory of Leon L. & Ethel Gruber by son Greg, daughter Sharon Armstrong, and granddaughter Jessica.

THE CHRISMON TREE: The Chrismons on the small tree in the stairwell were made by the late Edythe Geib. Several people have asked about the Chrismon tree. The term "Chrismon" comes from the Latin "Christi monnogramma" which simply means "monogram of Christ". Therefore, a Chrismon is a Christian symbol that represents Christ. There is a descriptive list of the various Chrismons next to the tree.

THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace M. Dodson (mother) and Dolores A. Dodson (aunt) of Donna Wolf, given by the family and friends. The candle stand and wreath are in memory of S. Leona Wolf, mother of the late John Wolf.

THE PEW CANDLE HOLDERS, made by John Barr, were given by John and Dolly Barr.

THE NATIVITY SCENE ON THE FRONT LAWN was made by Mike Wagner.

THE CRECHE ON THE LOWER LEVEL BY THE ELEVATOR was made by Mike Wagner.

DEVOTIONALS: The January-March edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the table across from the church office. Please help us by delivering envelopes to some of our homebound members!

THE 2024 APPROVED BUDGET is available on the table across from the church office or in the information racks on both levels of the church building.

TRINITY T-SHIRTS: The Anniversary Committee is working with our own Mitch Gibson (from Elizabethtown Sporting Goods) to celebrate our 175th anniversary with Trinity t-shirts. We have already placed one order, but you can still order shirts on the form across from the church office.

175th ANNIVERSARY GIFTS: There are extra copies of the historical book, the prayer book and the anniversary pens and magnets on the table across from the church office.

GRIEF GROUPS: Prior to the pandemic, Pastor Chris was hoping to form some small groups to look at issues of grief. Please contact him or Carol Kratz if you are interested in participating in one of the groups!

“I PROMISE” FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2024. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We have resumed koinonia (community fellowship) every Sunday at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments and drinks/coffee. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen coordinator. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. **Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.**

TRINITY PRESCHOOL SUB COUPONS: We still have eight coupons for subs at S. Clyde Weaver. The cost is \$8. Contact the church office if you are interested.

CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has already supported the walkers from Trinity Church! **As of December 5, we raised \$12,320!!!** You can still support the CROP Hunger Walk by giving money to Mark & Chris Eyer or Pastor Rankin or donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/trinity-east-pete>

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Greeter /Ushers Needed



If you would like to volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office. We recently had some vacancies as ushers, so we are in need of help!!! We are looking for a greeter coordinator that will recruit new people to serve and create a schedule. Contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.



Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer!

2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: January 21. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are January 14 & 21. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania**
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

[Winter Youth Retreat](#) at Kirchenwald - January 5 - 7, 2024

PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT: You will again find a pink envelope in your box of offering envelopes. This is a way for you to give a Christmas gift to Pastor Rankin. If you want the pastor to receive the full amount of your gift, then you should give it directly to him. This means that the money will not go through the church treasury and you will not receive a tax deduction for your gift. All checks should be made payable to the pastor if you choose to give it to him directly.

If you choose to make your check payable to Trinity UCC, you will receive credit on your 2023 contribution statement. A gift sent through the church treasury is considered taxable income for the pastor.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Scott Owens, Church Treasurer; Denise Pfeifer, Assistant Treasurer

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND DECEMBER 31!

The Christmas Eve Schedule

7:45 a.m.-Eucharist & 10:30 a.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

The Service of Lessons & Carols will be at the 10:30 service on December 31.

Sunday School Schedule for December 24 & 31: The Christian Education Committee is planning a special program and koinonia on December 24 from 9:30-10:15 a.m. We will sing Christmas carols, read a story, and have a birthday cake for Jesus. There will be no Sunday School on December 31!

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when [David] the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."
³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Luke 1:46b-55**or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26****SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."
²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

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Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary!!

Name	# of flowers	In Honor /In memory of
John & Betsy Bailey	3	In memory of our daughter, Glenna Bishop.
		In memory of our dear friend, Ken Geib.
		In memory of our dear friend, Lee Bossert.
Beth Bossert	3	In memory of Sandy & Lee Bossert.
		In celebration & love of Lee Davis.
		In celebration & love of Bodhi Davis.
Sue Bowman	5	In honor of Trinity's 175 th Anniversary.
Roger & Mary Ann Bradley	1	In memory of our parents.
The Brennans	1	In honor of the youth of this church.
Joan Cash	2	In memory of C. L. Fountain.
		In memory of Ella M. Fountain.
Cherie Cataldi	2	In honor of my aunt, Dottie Schadt.
		In memory of my parents, Robert & June Price.
Nancy Crawford	2	In honor of Chris, Anne, Nikki, Heather, Tara, Quinn, Zach, Rachel, and Andrew.
		In memory of Keith G Rankin, Jackie Meisky, and John Meisky.
Mark & Chris Eyer	1	In memory of our parents.
Donna Geisler	1	In memory of my parents, Rev. George R. & Janice Geisler. Pastor Emeritus of Trinity UCC 1964-1989.
Greg Gruber	2	In memory of Leon & Ethel Gruber.
Jeff Hackenberger	1	In memory of parents & brother.
Charles & Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe	2	To the glory of God With Us, Immanuel.
Jackey Hoover	2	In honor of Pastor Chris & Trinity UCC.
		In memory of my husband, Nowell.
Robert & Hedwig Hunsicker	2	In memory of our parents.
Chuck & Sue Husted	7	In memory of Gail Boettger.
		In memory of our friends.
		In honor of grandchildren & great grandchildren.
		In memory of their son, Christopher Husted.
		In memory of their grandson, Gabryl Husted.
		In memory of our parents.
		In honor of our grandchildren & great grandchildren.

<i>Miyah, Hannah , Ashton, Jayson</i>		In honor of Stan & Pat Seachrist.
Chuck & Gretchen Leinbach	2	In memory of our parents, Marvin & Marilyn Roth.
		In memory of our parents, Randy & Betsy Leinbach.
Members of Trinity (white poinsettias)	1	In honor of Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin.
	1	In honor of Michael Slechta, Director of Music & SOT Choir Director.
	1	In honor of Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant.
	1	In honor of Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director.
	1	In honor of James Landis, Interim Organist.
Jack & Karen Olley	1	In honor of our family.
Don & Denise Pfeiffer	3	In memory of William & Mary Jane Montgomery.
		In honor of our wonderful granddaughters.
		In memory of Joseph & Gloria Pfeiffer.
John & Sarah Paulukow	2	In honor of our granddaughters, Elle & Marley West.
		In thankfulness for all our lectors.
Pastor Chris & Anne Rankin	4	In honor of Zachary, Rachel, and Andrew.
		In memory of loved ones.
Jerry & Carmen Richards	1	In honor of our family.
Rev. Harry G. Royer	7	In honor of Donna Zirkel.
		In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wagner.
		In memory of parents.
		In memory of sister, Joan Sleet.
		In memory of Harriet Confair.
		In memory of Sister Theresa Joseph Lazur.
Dottie Schadt	2	In honor of Cherie Cataldi.
		In memory of Jere & Kevin Schadt.
Pat & Stan Seachrist	2	In honor of our daughters, Cindy & Debbie.
		In memory of our parents.
Autumn & Steve Shenk	1	In memory of Lenora & Lee Williams (Autumn's parents) & Helen & Amos Shenk (Steve's parents).
Mike & Shelley Wagner	2	In memory of Helen Wagner (Mike's mother).
		In memory of Virginia Myers (Shelley's mother).
Phyllis & Ken Zimmerman	3	In thanksgiving for God's healing hand upon us this year.
Donna Zirkel	2	In memory of my husband, Paul.
		In memory of all my loved ones.