

Cover

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

A Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 24th, 2019
5:30 pm

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

We invite our guests as well as members to fill out the blue sheet, found inside your bulletin, and place in the offering plate.

Share your story!

Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity. Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!

Find us on Facebook at:

Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo

Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic

INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

VOLUNTARY

Allegro from Concerto in G Major (BWV 592)

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Ringing of the Bells

WELCOME AND WORSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

Please stand, if able.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful “Adeste Fideles”

ELW 283

A CHRISTMAS LITANY

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light shines.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Thanks be to God, for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, the light of the world.

Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

His name shall be called Immanuel, meaning, “God with us.” (Luke 2:7)

Do not be afraid, for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people!

Glory to the new born king!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The Old Testament reading for Christmas Eve is recorded in Isaiah, the 9th Chapter.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, 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

HYMN

What Child Is This? “Greensleeves”

ELW 296 (vs 1-2)

Luke 2:1-7

This is the Nativity of Our Lord, according to Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem “St. Louis”

ELW 279 (vs 1-2)

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing “Mendelssohn”

ELW 270 (vs 1-2)

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

A FAMILY HOMILY

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

The First Noel “The First Nowell”

ELW 300 (vs. 1,2,4)

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace

(The congregation is invited to greet the person(s) around you with a handshake, hug or another appropriate greeting, after which, the congregation may be seated.)

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

“Old Hundredth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

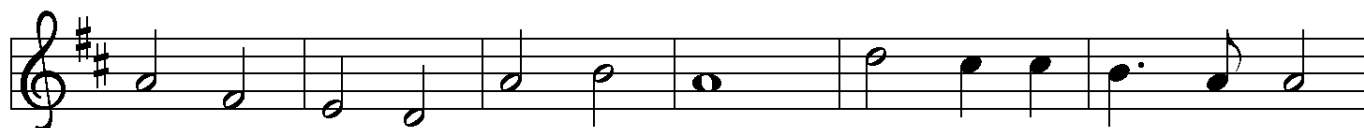
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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



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

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Beginning with those seated closest to the altar, you are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the presiding minister. Receiving the wafer in your hand, you are invited to dip or “intinct” the wafer into the chalice. There is wine in the silver chalice and grape juice in the ceramic chalice. For those who prefer, gluten-free wafers are available by simply asking the Pastor as you are served. Adults or children choosing not to receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

Children with flashlights may now light them. As the acolytes and ushers pass the light to members of the congregation, pass it to the person next to you. DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.

THE READING OF LIGHT: St. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Silent Night, Holy Night “Stille Nacht”

ELW 281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing,
Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✠ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World “Antioch”

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Mendelssohn”

Sir David Willcocks
(1919 – 2015)



Acknowledgements

The Organs of the church
are gifts to the
Glory of God
In Loving Memory of
Margaret L. Wendt.

The pianos in the church are gifts to the glory of God
given in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Kuhn
*(given by the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. York
and Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Kuhn);*
Virginia and Dorothy Mayer *(by the Mayer Estate);*
Mildred R. Wales *(by the Wales Family);*
Gerrie Schleifer *(by her family);*
and by S. Dwane Thomas, M.D.

The timpani in the church are gifts given to the
glory of God in loving memory of Ruth H. Geiger.



Many thanks to those who participated in today's service

Worship Assistants

Lead Crucifer: Ethan MacDonald
Torch Bearers: Robert Mann, Sean Mann
Acolyte: Timothy Yap

Communion Assistants

Ethan MacDonald, Robert Mann, Sean Mann, Timothy Yap

Reader

Uli MacDonald

Ushers

Paul Biesinger
Carole Casterline
Elizabeth Vihnanek



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of
Dr. Robert Schopp by the Schopp Family

Gifts for Christmas poinsettias decorating the church were received from:

In loving memory of:

The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by Joan Miller

Frank V. Miller by Joan Miller

James and Elizabeth Manzella by Mary and Kurt Kaufmann

Carl and Frances Kaufmann by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann

Mary Lou Eckert, Arthur Pellnat and Joan Pellnat by David and Sally Pellnat

Charles Allen Miller by Merriejann Miller

My parents by Doris Ratcliffe

Carolyn, Henry and David Hughes; Margot and Raúl W. Saona by Karen and Raúl

Saona

Dr. Ralph and Maxine Loew by Janet and Michael Day

Carolyn Loew Engdahl by Janet and Michael Day

Our parents by David and Patricia Ulrich

Frank Ricchiazzi and Walter and Doris Stroman by Louise Ricchiazzi

Louis, Vera and Robert Hoebel by Paul Hoebel

Ron's Parents Layton and Viola Leiser by Ron and Donna Leiser

Donna's Parents John and Victoria Caffarelli by Ron and Donna Leiser

William Johnson by Thomas Johnson and The Behrens Family

Mabel Johnson by Thomas Johnson and The Behrens Family

Husband, David Vihnanek, by Elizabeth Vihnanek

Elaine Fuhlbruck by the Carmer, Thomasula, Fuhlbruck, Addison and Hoebel Families

Kenneth A. James by Ruth James

Joan and Art Pellnat by Jim, Beth, Sara, Marissa and Maddie

Roy Kuck by Jeanette Kuck

Parents Carl and Frances Kaufmann and Otto and Katherine Kuck by Jeanette Kuck

Siblings Carlton Kaufmann, Marilyn Fritz, Frances Dawe and Marion Draus by Jeanette Kuck

Dave Grabenstatter by wife Nancy and son Eric
 Rudolf and Elizabeth Rick by the Martin Wright Family
 Smith and Kathryn Wright by the Martin Wright Family
 Lloyd, Grace and Michael Best by the Martin Wright Family
 John F. Schleifer, Sr., Gerrie Ann Schleifer, Anthony and Ann Glieco and
 Michael
 Glieco by Lynn and Anthony Glieco
 Ruth and Jack Alexander and Jo and Bud Hunt given by The Hunt Family
 Richard W. Bauchle by Paul and Karen Bauchle
 William and Emma Bauchle by Paul and Karen Bauchle
 Shirley and Robert Klas by Paul and Karen Bauchle
 Robert R. Klas by Paul and Karen Bauchle
 Darlene Ruppel, sister, by Jim and Marcia Haas
 Robbin Frederick Haas, brother, by Jim and Marcia Haas
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Haas by Jim and Marcia Haas
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Ruppel by Jim and Marcia Haas
 William, Eleanor, Carol and Nancy Wolf by Linda Patricola
 Theresa Pomietlarz by Justin, Kristen and Lillian Pomietlarz
 Frederick and Elizabeth Maas by Doug Alderdice
 Hugh and Anne Alderdice by Doug Alderdice
 The Stroman, Trier and Ricchiazzi Families by The Battaglia Family
 Dakota Jacob Lee by Richard Lee
 The parents of Rev. Neil and Pamela Kattermann
 Susan Anderson, my sister by Pamela Kattermann
 The Rev. Dr. Lee M. Miller by Pastor Lee, Heather and Griffin Miller
 Our grandparents by Pastor Lee, Heather and Griffin Miller
 Randall F. and Marie Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
 Randall E. Smith by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
 W. Dana & Elizabeth Jones by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones
 Our Loving Parents by The Kryszczuk Family
 My father, David R. Rice by Pastor Brenda Maynor
 Dolores B. Palmer by Prudence Palmer Hollands
 Jane P. Schaefer by Prudence Palmer Hollands
 Parents, Clifford and June Hehr by David Hehr
 Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Staffel and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hehr by
 David Hehr
 Darwin C. Staffel by nephew, David Hehr

In honor of:

Our children and grandchildren by Bill and Judy Hardie
Our granddaughter, Felicia, by Dave and Mary Linda Schmidt
My children: Matthew, Lauren and Brad by Claire Carmer
Karen, Tim, Kyle and Cameron Taylor by Martin and Helen Wright
Kristen, Matthew, Avery and Clayton Best by Martin and Helen Wright
Our granddaughters, Ella Hope Bauchle and Hannah Grace Bauchle by Paul and
Karen Bauchle
Holy Trinity Chancel Choir by Pat Lonergan
Holy Trinity Chapel Choir by Pat Lonergan
The Richard J. Lee Family by Richard Lee
My Grandchildren Owen, Kyle and Calvin by Guy Huber
My Children Chris, Lauren, Kelly and Katie by Guy Huber
The Great Kitchen Crew by Guy Huber
All the Blessings Received by Guy Huber
Holy Trinity Staff by Guy Huber
The church staff by Pastor Lee, Heather and Griffin Miller
The church council, leaders and members by Pastor Lee, Heather and Griffin
Miller
Our daughter Carina W. Culross by Daniel Culross and Holly Holdaway
Harry Whitmer by Claudia Kolbe-Hawthorne
Dr. Tom and Jane Hamilton by Claudia Kolbe-Hawthorne

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of:

Beloved son and brother, Randy Dean Goulet, by The Goulet Family

In Thanksgiving for:

The blessings of Alexander and Emily by Kurt and Mary Kaufmann
Our family given by Earl and Joyce Hunt
The office staff by Pastor Brenda Maynor
The church leadership and all members of Holy Trinity by Pastor Brenda
Maynor

In Appreciation of

Sunday Chapel Service readers by Earl Kunz

In memory of loved ones by: Carol Alderdice, Sue Cosentino, Bill and Judy
Hardie, Loretta Queffelec, Sue Spindler

A Few Announcements

Our Christmas Day service will be held at 10:30 am in the Chapel.

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 and 26.

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the completion of the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Immediately following the 10:30 meeting, we will be holding a potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite dish to pass and join us for fun and fellowship.

Our community meal ministry/Sue's Supper, will be hosting a free dinner on Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30pm. Please note Sue's Supper has moved to the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We will hold a brief evening worship following supper. The entire church family is invited to this event for food and fellowship.

Changes to the Church Paper: We will continue to publish our Church Paper every other month. However, **beginning in January 2020**, we will no longer be mailing paper copies without a print subscription. You will have the option of subscribing to a paper edition. The cost would be \$10 per year and you will need to call the church office to sign up for this delivery. You will be able to find the newsletter on our website, or you may sign up to receive it via email. **Please know that copies are always available on the tables at the church or chapel entrance ways or at the church office.** If you would like to sign up electronically, subscribe to your print edition, or if you have any questions about this transition, please call the church office at 716-886-2400.

Regular Sunday Service of Holy Communion

8:30 a.m. Chapel

10:30 a.m. Main Church

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Kurt Kaufmann, President
Uli MacDonald, Vice-President
Emily Notari, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Theedralyn Bradley, Ryon Fleming, Guy Huber, Richard Lee,
Gwen Howard-Mann, Juan Perez, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

The Staff wishes everyone a blessed Christmas!

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist
Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

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