

Christmas Carol Communion Service

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2017

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude and Lighting of Candles and Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn “Lift Up Your Heads”Hymn 341

Blessing, Confession, and Assurance of Forgiveness

P Grace, mercy, and peace be with you from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. *[2 John 3]*

C **And also with you.** *[Ruth 2:4]*

P Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In the light of His truth, let us open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith. . . . God the Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, full of grace and truth: *[John 1:9, 14]*

C **Forgive us for not receiving Him, and in our evil deeds loving darkness rather than light.** *[John 1:11, 3:19]*

P The Virgin Mary responded joyfully to Your call to be the Mother of our Lord: *[Luke 1:38]*

C **Forgive the hardness of our hearts and our disobedience to Your will.**

P Your Son our Savior humbled Himself to be born in poverty, being laid in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. *[Luke 2:6-7]*

C **Forgive our greed and preoccupation with the things of this world.**

P The shepherds trusted the Good News of the angels, went to Bethlehem to see this thing which had come to pass, and made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. *[Luke 2:8-18]*

C **Forgive the weakness of our faith, and our failure to share the Good News of Your salvation.**

P The Wise Men followed the star to worship and offer precious gifts to the newborn King. *[Matthew 2:1-2, 11]*

C **Forgive our distraction from the true wonder and meaning of this joyous season: Your only Son born on earth, for us and our salvation.**

P Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy! For unto you is born a Savior, Christ, the Lord! *[Luke 2:10-11]*

C **For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

P For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned. *[John 3:16-18]*

C **Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has come and has redeemed His people.**

P He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, in the house of His servant David.

C **As He spoke from of old through the mouths of His holy prophets.** *[Luke 1:68-70]*

P That we may serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our lives. *[Luke 1:74-75]*

C **Amen.**

Introit “Joy to the World”.....Hymn 387

Christmas Kyrie

P Lord Jesus, You are the Mighty God and Prince of Peace:

C **Gather us into Your kingdom and grant us Your peace.**

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

- P** You come in Word and Sacrament:
C **To strengthen us in faith and holiness.**
P Let us seek You in the Scriptures:
C **And recognize You in the breaking of the bread.**
P Lord, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy.**
P Bind the brokenhearted, restore the sick:
C **Raise up the fallen, cheer the despondent.**
P You are the Light of the world:
C **Cleanse and heal our blinded sight.**
P Lord, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy.**
P You are the Son of God and Son of Man:
C **The Word made flesh and the glory of the Father.**
P Let the light of Your coming:
C **Dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.**
P Lord, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy. Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis *(Please Remain Standing)*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”Hymn 368

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.** *[2 Timothy 4:22]*
P Let us pray . . .
C **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



Old Testament Reading.....Isaiah 7:10-14

The original context of Isaiah 7:10-14 was a confrontation between the great prophet Isaiah and King Ahaz, the most wicked of the Old Testament kings, who reigned from 735 B.C. to 715 B.C. (For an account of Ahaz's reign, see 2 Kings 16 and 2 Chronicles 28.) Foreign armies were threatening Judah, and Isaiah brings Ahaz the good news that Judah will not be conquered. The Lord bids Ahaz to seek a sign confirming this promise. Because unbelieving Ahaz, who worshipped other gods, refuses to seek a sign from the Lord, Isaiah announces that God Himself will give an amazing sign: The coming Messiah will be born of a Virgin! This was a great humiliation from the Lord for Ahaz and his descendants. The great King of Kings would indeed be born of the house of David, but, because of the wickedness and unfaithfulness of Ahaz and the other Hebrew kings, He would be of female lineage only, miraculously born of a Virgin.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*Zechariah 9:9b; Psalm 118:26a*)

P Behold, your King is coming to you, righteous and having salvation.

C Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.

Epistle Reading..... 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Paul concludes his letter with final instructions and a benediction. Christians should support and encourage one another. We should respect pastors because of their work for the Lord and the people of God. And though we cannot verbally pray at all times, we ought to continually be in the spirit of prayer and ever ready to pray.

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it.

Brothers, pray for us. Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Gospel Acclamation *(Please Stand)*

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring with Thy beloved name.

Lutheran Service Book, 349, verses 1, 4

Before the reading:

P The Holy Gospel according to St. _____, the _____ chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel Reading..... John 1:6-8, 19-28

John testifies to Jewish leaders asking, "Who are you?" that he is not the Christ, but was only sent to prepare the way for Him. As a faithful servant, John sets for us an example of humility and reverence.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that Light, so that through Him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the Light. . .

Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands One you do not know. He is the One who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Christmas Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

C All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. *[John 1:1-3]*

P He is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn over all creation.

C For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers.

P All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. *[Colossians 1:15-17]*

C And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P When the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman. *[Galatians 4:4]*

C This is how God revealed His love among us: He sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we may live through Him. *[1 John 4:9]*

P For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, both on earth and in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. *[Colossians 1:19-20]*

C I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not know Him. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

C But to all who received Him, to those who believed on His name, He gave the right to become children of God, children born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. *[John 1:9-14]*

C And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. *[John 1:16]*

Hymn “See Amid the Winter’s Snow”.....Hymn 373

Sermon“And His Name Shall Be Called: Immanuel”

Offering

Offertory *(Please Stand)*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we, evermore be led by Thee.

As they offered gifts most rare at Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heaven'ly King.

Lutheran Service Book, 397, verses 1, 3

Advent Litany

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **And grant us Your peace.**

P Jesus, name called Wonderful;
Jesus, our great Counselor;
Jesus, true and Mighty God;
Jesus, Prince of Peace:

C **We praise and bless Your holy name.**

P Jesus, Son of David;
Jesus, Branch of Jesse;
Jesus, Rose of Sharon;
Jesus, Bright and Morning Star:

C **We rejoice in Your salvation.**

P Jesus, Glory of Israel;
Jesus, Light of the Gentiles;
Jesus, Desire of all Nations;
Jesus, Sun of Righteousness with healing in Your wings:

C **Help us and bless us.**

P O Jesus, hear us:

C **And let our cry come unto You.**

P Enter our hearts by Your Spirit:

C **Fill us with heavenly peace and goodwill.**

P Help Your messengers to prepare the way before You in every land:

C **Let all nations see the True Light.**

P Preserve all who put their trust in You:

C **And give joy to Your people.**

P Hear our prayer, O Lord:

C **And let our cry come unto You.**

P Prepare us for Your coming:

C **And save us from our sins.**

Additional Petitions Each Concluding with:

P Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **Hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, You sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the Nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

[2 Timothy 4:22]

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In coming to dwell among us as Man, He revealed the radiance of Your glory, and brought us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *(Please Remain Standing)*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th' incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Come, Desire of Nations, come, fix in us Thy humble home;

Oh, to all Thyself impart, formed in each believing heart!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Lutheran Service Book, 380, verse 2

The Lutheran Hymnal, 94, verse 4

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning You created all things by Your Word, and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C **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.**

[Matthew 6:9-13]

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." [Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 11:23-25]

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

[John 20:19]

Agnus Dei (*Please Remain Standing*)

How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Lutheran Service Book, 361, verses 3-4

Hymns "Silent Night, Holy Night"Hymn 363
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"Hymn 388
"Away in a Manger"..... Hymn 364
"Angels from the Realms of Glory".....Hymn 367

Nunc Dimittis, Collect, and Benediction

Now sing we, now rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Life's most precious treasure here poor in manger lies;
He brings purer pleasure than sunlight from the skies
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

God's Son, come from above, Your grace and saving love
To my spirit bringing, O pure and holy Child
Fill my heart with singing for grace so great and mild.
Draw me, Lord, to you! Draw me, Lord, to you!

Lutheran Worship, 47, verses 1-2

P Let us pray . . . God our Father, whose Word was made flesh and came among us as the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may His body and blood illumine our hearts, that in our words and deeds the light of faith may shine forth to Your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Let us bless the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

P May God the Father keep you all your days;
May God the Son shield you, come what may;
May God the Spirit guide you in all your ways;
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you,
and pour upon you His light and grace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

Hymn “Oh, How Joyfully, Oh, How Merrily”

Oh, how joyfully, oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its grace divine!
Grace again is beaming, Christ the world redeeming:
Hail, ye Christians, hail, the joyous Christmastime!
Oh, how joyfully, oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its peace divine!
Peace on earth is reigning, Christ our peace regaining:
Hail, ye Christians, hail, the joyous Christmastime!
Oh, how joyfully, oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its life divine!
Angels high in glory chant the Christmas story:
Hail, ye Christians, hail, the joyous Christmastime!

Everyone Is Invited to Stay and Enjoy Coffee Hour in the Overflow



WELCOME TO TRINITY! We pray this worship hour is a blessing for you and invite you to please come again soon. If you are a visitor please sign the Guest Register in the entry and introduce yourself to the Pastor.

Trinity Lutheran Church

34868 Block Road ♦ Paola s KS ♦ 66071

www.trinitylutheranblock.org

trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com

(913) 849-3344 (Church Office)

Pastor Kevin Vogts

kevinvogts@gmail.com

913-849-3711 (Study) 913-594-9865 (Mobile)

Birthdays

Tuesday	Samantha Honn	
Thursday	Carole Brandt	Nancy Green
Friday	Jack Smith	

Anniversaries

12/17	Steve and Kristie McMullin	23 years
-------	----------------------------	----------

We remember in our prayers

Damon Kettler, Sherri Webb, Hazel Prothe, Robin Cotrell, Grant Haley, Alexis DeLuca, members and relatives serving in the armed forces including Jake Crome, Jeremy Howard, Zac Howard, Aaron Prothe, and Travis Peckman.

TREASURER'S REPORT Dec 17, 2017

Checking Account Balance	Dec 9, 2017	\$ 3,601.95
Income:	Deposit	\$ 3,325.00
Expenses:	Checking	\$ (4,427.18)
Balance	Dec 16, 2017	\$ 2,499.77

Attendance

Worship Attendance	Dec 10, 2017	111
---------------------------	--------------	-----

TODAY'S WORSHIP — *The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness.* When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26-27). This sign once given to the house of David, that “the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son” (Isaiah 7:14) declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing,” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP — *Blessed Jesus, since by Your holy Incarnation and Your blessed Virgin Birth You came down from heaven and were made man for our salvation, grant us faith that we may trust Your Word, and believe and rejoice in these mysteries; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON — Next Sunday's message will be “*And His Named Shall Be Called: Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*” based on Isaiah 9:6. Sermons by Pastor Vogts are available in both printed and audio form on our church web site, www.trinitylcms.org/sermons, as podcasts in the iTunes store under “Kevin Vogts,” online at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com, or for mobile devices at www.kevinvogts.podbean.com/mobile. Printed copies of today's message and those from the past several weeks are also available in a small literature rack in back of the church.

CHRISTMAS CANDY COLLECTION — Following the service today the ushers will be taking a special collection to fund the traditional Christmas candy sacks distributed on Christmas Eve.



IN SYMPATHY — We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Damon Oberheide, who entered eternal rest last Monday, with the funeral and burial held at Trinity on Thursday. Also the family of Darrell Peckman, who entered eternal rest last Wednesday. The funeral and burial will be at Trinity tomorrow at 10:30am, preceded by the visitation at Trinity, beginning at 9:30am. *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”* (Revelation 14:13).

CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMUNION SERVICE TODAY — This morning we are celebrating our Christmas Communion with a “Christmas Carol Communion Service,” featuring favorite carols used in place of the various portions of the Liturgy.

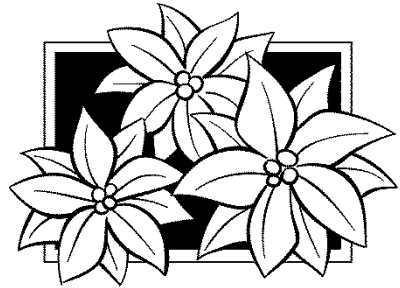


CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY — Everyone, of all ages, is invited to join the fun Christmas caroling for some of the shut-in members of our congregation. Meet at the church *today* at 2:00pm. For more information or to suggest someone—church member or not—who would enjoy having carolers contact Jan Minden.

COFFEE HOUR — Our thanks to the Meyer Family for providing snacks for Coffee Hour following worship this morning.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS —

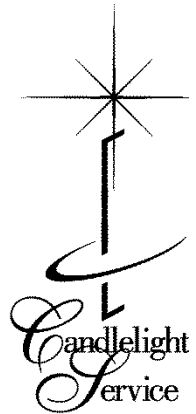
Donating poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary is a great way to remember loved ones at Christmas! Sign up on the counter in the Church Office to order plants from Price Chopper at a cost of \$7 each. Place your payment in the offering marked “Poinsettias.” When signing up please indicate how many plants you wish to donate and for whom they are in memory or honor. You are also welcome to bring your own poinsettias, which you purchase elsewhere or receive as gifts. Just drop them by the church sometime before Christmas Eve and leave them on the tables in the Overflow. Please still sign up on the sheet in the Church Office, indicating that you are providing your own plants, and for whom they are in memory or honor, so that this information may be included in the church newsletter.



POINSETTIAS

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE —

Bring your family and holiday guests to celebrate our Savior’s birth with our Christmas Eve Children’s Program and Candlelight Service next Sunday, December 24 at 7:00pm. The theme of this year’s service is “*From Heaven Above,*” named after the Christmas hymn by Martin Luther and focusing on the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Pastor Vogts’ message will be “*And His Name Shall Be Called: Savior, Christ, the Lord*” based on Luke 2:11. “*O come let us adore Him!*”



TWO SERVICES DECEMBER 24 — This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday evening, so we will have *two* services next Sunday, December 24, our regular morning service at 10:00am, and the Christmas Eve Children’s Program at 7:00pm. At the 10:00am service we will observe the Fourth Sunday in Advent, and our order of worship will feature a series of Scripture readings followed by brief mediations on the names of Christ from Handel’s “Messiah”: “*Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6).

GUEST MINISTER JANUARY 14 — Terry Vogts’ grandfather was the founding president of the American Beekeeping Federation and her whole family is gathering for the ABF 75th Anniversary Convention in Reno, Nevada, January 9-14. Rev. Roger Schepmann will serve as our guest preacher at Trinity on Sunday, January 14. While Pastor Vogts is gone you may still contact him at the parsonage number (913-849-3711), which will be forwarded to his cell phone, or call his cell phone directly (913-594-9865).



FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS CHRISTMAS DAY — Our worship on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 at 10:00am, will be a “Festival of Readings and Carols.” This traditional Christmas service includes a series of Scripture readings related to the Christmas story, each followed by a Christmas carol. Pastor Vogts’ message will be “*The Word Made Flesh*” based on John 1:14.

DECEMBER TRINITY TRIBUNE — The December issue of our church newsletter *Trinity Tribune* is being distributed after worship today, in both regular and large print. Pastor Vogts’ article this month is the surprising story of “*Martin Luther—World’s First Music Superstar!*” Current and past issues of our newsletter are also available online on the church’s website, www.trinitylcms.org/newsletter. Pick up your copy today!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS — The new Church Year and season of Advent begins today. In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation being observed this year, Pastor Vogts compiled a booklet of daily devotions for Advent and Christmas excerpted from sermons and other writings of Martin Luther. It is being distributed after the service this morning, in both regular and large print, and is also available in the overflow.



DVD STUDY “A MAN NAMED MARTIN” — In commemoration of the 500th Anniversary this year of the Lutheran Reformation, our new study in Adult Bible Class is *A Man Named Martin*, looking at the life, work, and teachings of Martin Luther, and the impact on the world of the Reformation he began when he posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. In this DVD-based Study from

Lutheran Hour Ministries viewers encounter the complex person of Martin Luther, a monk, priest, theologian, and professor, whose Spirit-inspired grasp of the Gospel was the cornerstone of the Reformation. This study will help you understand what it really means to be a Lutheran. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow for this fascinating study of *A Man Named Martin*!

NEW COLOSSIANS BIBLE STUDY BEGINS IN JANUARY

— On January 7 we will begin a new study for the New Year in Adult Bible Class, *God’s Grace in Colossians*. Though written nearly 2,000 years ago, this Biblical book still speaks to our lives today in a surprisingly fresh and relevant way. One of the Apostle Paul’s shorter letters, Colossians is especially rich with descriptions of Christ, His work, and the blessings He bestows on us. Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow beginning January 7 to learn more about *God’s Grace in Colossians*.

What is Christmas really all about? Why are we celebrating? What does Christmas mean for you? In Scripture hundreds of different names and titles are given to the Babe whose birth this holiday celebrates. Throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons this year we are exploring the “reason for the



season” with a special sermon series on the meaning and significance for you of some of these names and titles of our Lord, under the theme, *And His Name Shall Be Called*. Come and celebrate the real “reason for the season”!

December 3

“The Root and Branch of Jesse”

Isaiah 11:1-10

December 10

“The Lord Our Righteousness”

Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 17

“Immanuel”

Isaiah 7:10-14

December 24 (10:00am)

“Wonderful, Counselor,

The Mighty God,

The Everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace”

Isaiah 9:6

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

“Savior, Christ, the Lord”

Luke 2:11

December 25 (Christmas Day)

“The Word Made Flesh”

John 1:1-14

December 31

“Jesus”

Matthew 1:21

January 1 (New Year’s Day)

“The Alpha and Omega”

Revelation 1:8

January 7 (Epiphany Observed)

“King of Kings”

Matthew 2:1-12