

Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

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Office Email: office@tlcsparta.org Website: www.tlcsparta.org

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Live streaming on Facebook and YouTube (Trinity LutheranSparta)

**Our worship service will also be recorded
and will be available on our website www.tlcsparta.org**



A Service of Lessons and Carols

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

***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.

***Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1 & 2)

#283

***Prayer:**

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lessons and Carols

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

² 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.
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.

Hymn: *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* (vs. 1 & 3)

#294

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is

from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (vs. 1 & 4)

#279

Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In 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.

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.

Hymn: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* (vs. 1 & 2)

#251

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

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: *What Child is This* (vs. 1)

#296

Reading: Luke 2:8-16

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!"

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.

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1 & 2)

#257

Reading: Luke 2:21-35

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they

brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Hymn: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* (vs. 1 & 4)

#282

Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Hymn: *What Child is This* (vs. 2 & 3)

#282

Reading: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#289

***Sharing of the Peace**

Offering – *“Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”* (Psalm 37:4)

***Offering Prayer**

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen**

***Lord’s Prayer**

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.

***Benediction**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Ringling of the Bell

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#270

***Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Attendance for Sunday, December 24th (4th Sunday in Advent) – 63

Attendance for Christmas Eve, 3:00 pm – 231 and 9:00 pm - 61

Attendance for Christmas Day, 9:00 am - 13

For December 10:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$5728.81

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$1702.50

For December 17:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$6185.19

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$1066.85

<u>December 31, 2023</u>	<u>January 7, 2024</u>
Greeter: Joanne Benning	Greeter: Rita Bernette
Reader: Joyce Putman	Reader: Nancy Sikorsky
No communion	Communion: Mary Herrman-Gary Haskins-Chuck Hogan
Music: Adell Morton	Music: Adell Morton Alleluia Choir
Coffee Fellowship	Coffee Fellowship
Flower Pick Up – Friday, Jan. 5 Gary & Carol Haskins	Flower Pick Up – Friday, Jan 12 Gary & Carol Haskins
Pew Restocking – Month of Jan: Steve & Judy Bernett	Pew Restocking – Month of Jan: Steve & Judy Bernett
Money Counting – Jan. 2 (Tues) Alton Ask-Audrey Zebell-PJ Sikorsky	Money Counting – Jan. 8 Carol Thorsen-Adell Morton-Brenda Degenhardt
Altar Team-Month of January: Siri Donskey & Carol Glaman	Altar Team-Month of January: Siri Donskey & Carol Glaman
Food Pantry – January 3: Rita Bernette & Judy Bernett	Food Pantry – January 10: Karen Hernandez & Julie Erickson
Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery-Jan. 5: Morrow Home: Gary & Betty Peterson Rolling Hills: Sharon Nelson	Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery-Jan 12 Morrow Home: Ron & Pauline Haug Rolling Hills: Doug Dengel