

# Love

For God so loved  
the world that he  
gave his one and  
only Son, that  
whoever believes  
in him shall not  
perish but have  
eternal life.

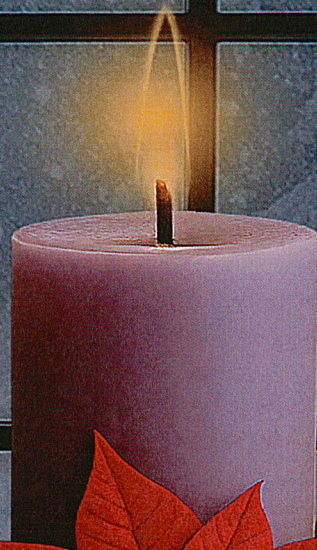
*John 3:16, NIV*

4th Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025

The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity

Holy Communion ..... 9:00 AM

Sunday School ..... 10:30 AM





Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

### ***Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!***

Our worship follows a traditional order inspired by scripture and rooted in ancient patterns. The full order for worship (liturgy) is found in this bulletin.

\*Please stand as you are able. Spoken congregational responses are in **Bold**.

#### **GATHERING**

*Worship begins with the organ prelude. It's a time for silent meditation as we turn our hearts and minds to God.*

#### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **\*GATHERING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls us by name and draws near to us with grace and love. **Amen.**

##### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

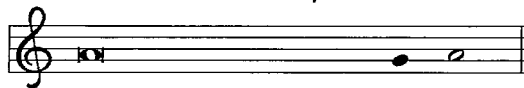
**\*GATHERING HYMN -**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ..... Hymn 254

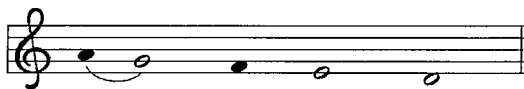
**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*KYRIE - Lord Have Mercy ..... page 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



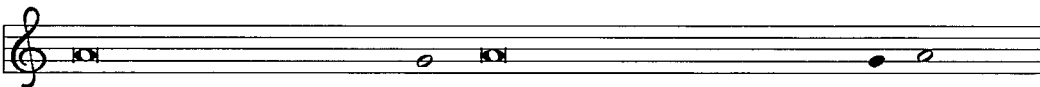
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



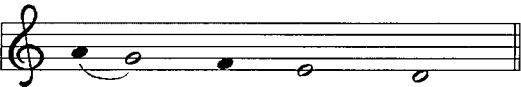
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



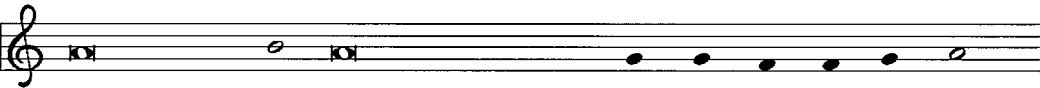
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.      Lord      have      mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.      A      -      men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - The Johnson Family**

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 4) #240



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line.

**ADVENT PRAYER**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draw near. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

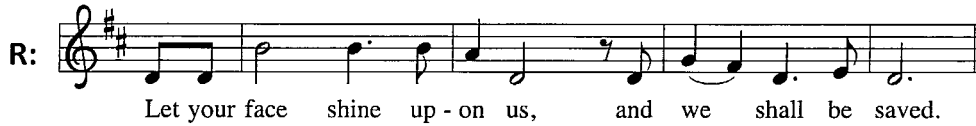
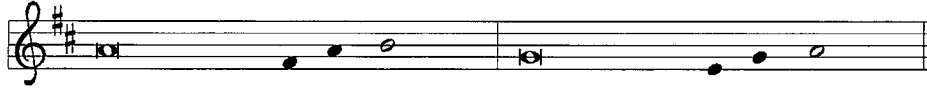
First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted." The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Tone:



PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph <sup>|</sup> like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- <sup>|</sup> on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, <sup>|</sup> and Manasseh,**  
**stir up your strength and <sup>|</sup> come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup> Restore <sup>|</sup> us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>|</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup> **O LORD <sup>|</sup> God of hosts,**  
**how long will your anger fume when your <sup>|</sup> people pray? R**

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the <sup>|</sup> bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of <sup>|</sup> tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision <sup>|</sup> of our neighbors,**  
**and our enemies laugh <sup>|</sup> us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O <sup>|</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>|</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at <sup>|</sup> your right hand,**  
**the one you have made so strong <sup>|</sup> for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn a- <sup>|</sup> way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- <sup>|</sup> on your name.

<sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD <sup>|</sup> God of hosts;**  
**let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>|</sup> shall be saved. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM RINGERS -

Go Tell It On The Mountain ..... arr. Andrew Duncan

Gloria ..... arr. Frances Callahan

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - ..... Page 151





\*GOSPEL - Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.** *(spoken)*

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SENIOR CHOIR & PSALM RINGERS -

Advent Bell Carol ..... Lee/Wagner

SENIOR CHOIR -

O Come, O Come Immanuel ..... Natalie Sleeth

Advent Prayer ..... Peterson/arr. Larson

Prepare The Way of The Lord ..... William Rowan

\*HYMN OF THE DAY -

Savior of the Nations, Come ..... Hymn 263

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Response:* God of grace, **hear our prayer.** (After the prayer) **Amen.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING - (*Offering plates are located in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.*)

\*OFFERTORY HYMN - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ..... Hymn 257, verse 4

4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

\***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new on the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SANCTUS** - Holy, Holy, Holy ..... Page 153



### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

You are indeed holy, Almighty and Merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

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.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

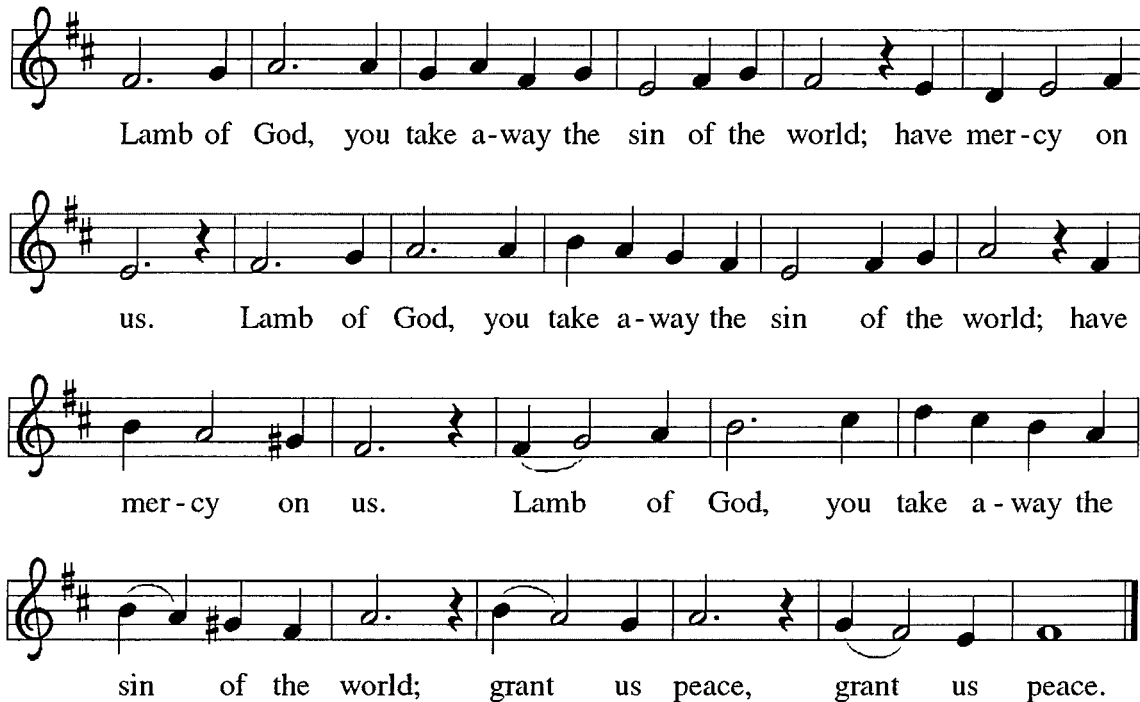
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.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

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet of Christ. All are welcome. **Amen**



**\*AGNUS DEI - Lamb of God** ..... Page 154



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.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*EVERYONE IS INVITED to come forward to receive Communion. If you are unable to come forward, you may remain seated and the pastor will bring you communion at your seat. Children may come forward to receive a blessing. After receiving Communion, please do not hesitate to come forward to the altar for a time of prayer.*

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your goodness.**  
**You are our hope and joy. Strengthen us by this food, and send us to share with**  
**the world your love and welcome others to your house, where none are left**  
**out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

**\*SENDING BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN -**

Joy to the World ..... Hymn 267

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The Rev. Althea Seidel - Pastor

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music

Sarah Wagner - Organist

Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director

Karen Fitting - Lay Assistant

Heather Buffington - Choir Accompanist


Neal Galbraith - Lector


Emily Engle - Acolyte

Heidi Gerver - Greeter

Denise Rhoades - Greeter

\*\*\*\*\*

 *Elevator access to upper and lower levels is located at rear entrance of church.*

 *Remember to silence cell phones & other electronic device*

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### **A GIFT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN LOVING ☩ MEMORY OF:**

In memory of Janice Copenhaver by Craig & Nancy Brightbill

In memory of Joette Hollinger by Craig & Nancy Brightbill

In memory of Charles Robert Malstrom by The Malstrom Family

In memory of Cookie Rothermel by Wilson & Nancy Shaffer

In memory of Cookie Rothermel by Bonnie & Gina Battistelli

In memory of Cookie Rothermel by Judy Cassel

In memory of Cookie Rothermel by Cindy Gingrich

In memory of George Smith by Craig & Nancy Brightbill

In memory of The Rev. Conrad Youse by Craig & Nancy Brightbill

### **THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:**

Monday, December 22 - Praise Ringers 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23 - Senior Choir 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24 - Office Closed; Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 25 - Church Closed - Merry Christmas!

Saturday, December 27 - Private Event (all day)

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

**PRAYER UPDATE:** We have been asked to keep Barb Atwood, Terry Clearwater, The Family of Dennis Culp, Deb Dobson, Donna, Susie Eckert, Dan Fox, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, The Family of Joette Hollinger, Jim & Judi Light, Michael Miele, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Ed Ream, The Family of Lemoyne Reigle, The Family of Cookie Rothermel, Marie Smith, Nancy Warner, and Mary Yeagley.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** If Church is going to be cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on our website page: [www.trinityleb.org](http://www.trinityleb.org). Don't forget to refresh your browser when viewing the website. You can also find information on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/htlclebanonpa](https://facebook.com/htlclebanonpa). The decision will be made by 7 p.m. the Saturday prior to service.

**POINSETTIAS:** For those who wish to provide a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use either the envelope included in your November envelope packet or include a note in your donation. **\$7.00 provides one poinsettia** Please remember to include the name of the person(s) presenting the poinsettia. Place the envelope in the offering plate or in the envelope slot. **Deadline for acknowledgement on the Poinsettia List is TODAY.**

**SOUP FOR SALE:** There are still limited amounts of both Vegetable and Chicken Noodle soup available! They are frozen. The cost is \$7 each. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office or see Denise Rhoades or Neal Galbraith.

**MEMBERS' PHOTOS ON DISPLAY:** The Lebanon Valley Council on the Arts December display features photographs from our very own Tom Gainer and Terry Weaver. Both are members of the Lebanon Camera Club. If you would like to see their work, Lebanon Valley Council on the Arts is located at 770 Cumberland Street, Lebanon. You can stop by Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**SHARE & CARE:** Prayerfully consider making a donation of shelf stable grocery or personal care items. Suggested items: granola or protein bars, snack packs of crackers, cookies, etc., pasta, toothpaste, soap, brushes, shampoo, sanitary items, tuna, peanut butter, and more! **ANY DONATION IS WELCOME!** Items can be placed in the tote marked "Share & Care" in Luther's Place. Monetary donations are also needed. If you would like to contribute simply place a note on your donation or use a blank pew envelope and mark it "Share & Care."

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** As the weather starts to get colder, the Spread the Warmth campaign will begin. Donations of blankets, gloves, scarves, hats, jackets, sweatshirts, and socks are needed. We welcome any donation of clothing or shoes. Please place your donation in The Giving Place in the Spread the Warmth bin. Thank you!

**SANTA CLAUS:** The video "Santa Claus" will be viewed in the social room after worship on December 28. It is a fascinating story that begins with the person, Nicolas, Bishop of Smyrna to his becoming the most popular saint of the middle ages. Then how Protestants and even the Roman Church attempted to eliminate his popularity. But the popular culture of the USA revived and transformed the image of Santa Claus whose anticipated arrival is expected by children at Christmas. Despite the commercialization, he remains a symbol of what is worthwhile about the holiday season: generosity, kindness, and good will to men. A snack and coffee are available to all who wish to see "Santa Claus."

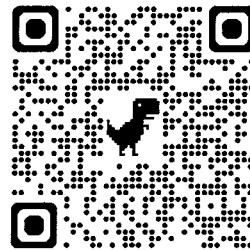




# YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

There are many ways that we, as a congregation and as individuals, give back to the Lord. Many of us share our gifts, talents, and money in order to have our many ministries flourish. Your support, in whatever ways it is shared, is always appreciated.

Scan to donate online:




## Church Treasurer's Financial Summary - October 2025

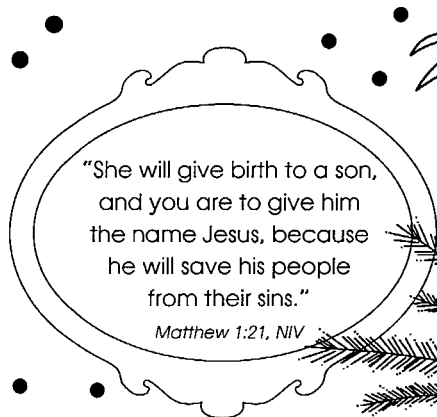
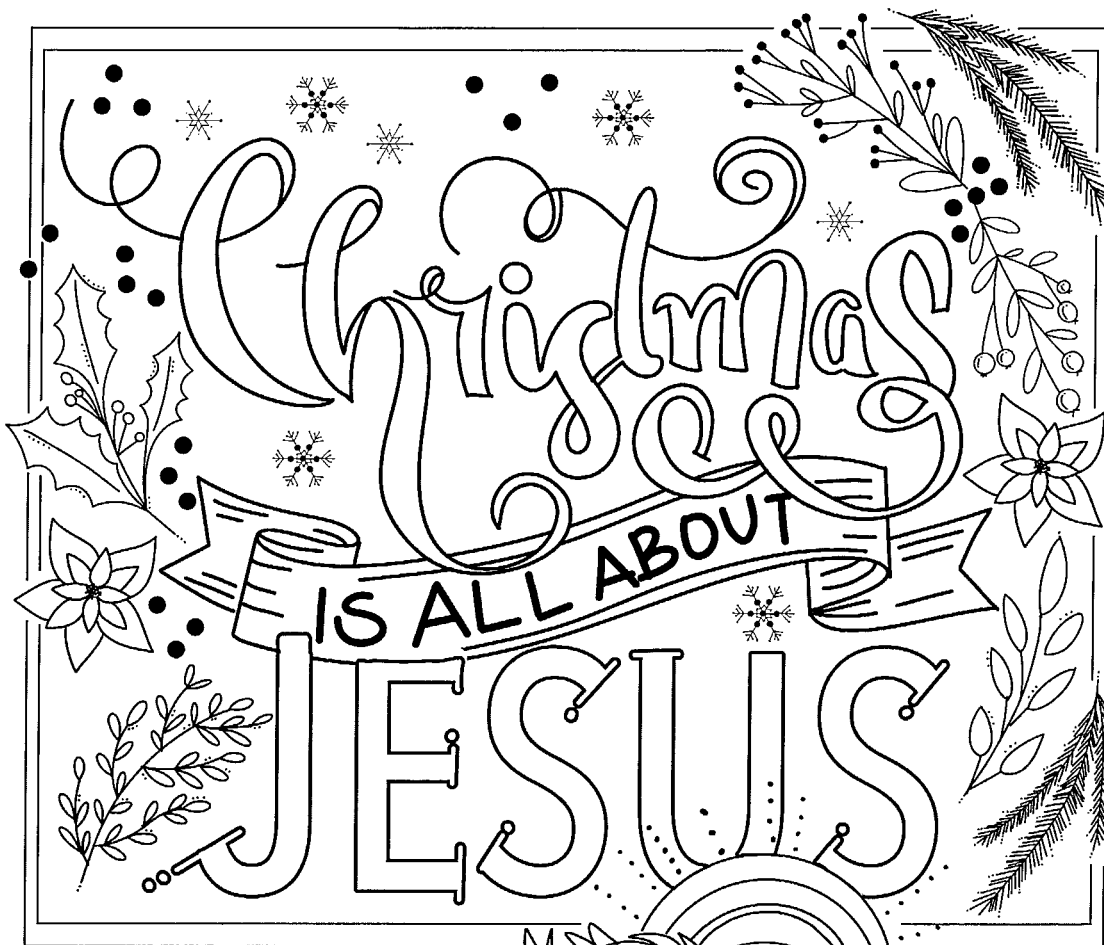
	Month of October	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	\$27,356	\$232,895	\$258,311
Expenses	\$(28,289)	\$(260,180)	\$(259,806)
Net Income	\$(932)	\$(27,285)	\$(1,494)



I am in the process of organizing the next disaster response trip, the 26<sup>th</sup> trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Team. It will take place April 26 – May 2, 2026. It will be a return to the western North Carolina region devastated by Hurricane Helene last fall. There will be a trip planning meeting on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz.

The second opportunity is an invitation to anyone interested in hearing about our most recent trip to North Carolina. Also on February 1<sup>st</sup>, our disaster response team will be gathering to tell our stories and show our pictures from the work we did and the experiences we had in North Carolina in November. The presentation will take place in the Community Room at 7:00 p.m. We thank everyone who supported our work and invite them to come and see what they helped make possible. If you have any questions, please let me know!

	<p><b>Rev. Glenn A. Beard, Jr., MDiv, BCC</b> Vice President, Church Relations &amp; Spiritual Care Coordinator, Lower Susquehanna LDR Network Phone 717.626.1171 ext. 1669</p> <p>LutherCare 600 East Main Street, Lititz, PA, 17543 <a href="http://LutherCare.org">LutherCare.org</a></p>
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**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

723 Lehman Street, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17046

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YouTube: Holy Trinity Lebanon PA      [www.facebook.com/htlclebanonpa](https://www.facebook.com/htlclebanonpa)

**Pastor Althea Seidel: [pastoralthea3@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralthea3@gmail.com) • cell: 484-345-0399**

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.,  
also available by phone, email, text message, or appointment

**Stephanie Kaylor: [stephanie@trinityleb.org](mailto:stephanie@trinityleb.org)**

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.