

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 28th, 2025 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

WELCOME

(*) *Please stand as you are comfortable and able*



Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany (adapted from Justice for Immigrants)

P: Our God, You have given us in your word the stories of persons who needed to leave their homelands — Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses.

C: **Help us to remember that when we speak of immigrants and refugees, we speak of Christ.**

P: In the One who had no place to lay his head, and in the least of His brothers and sisters, You come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge.

C: **We confess that we often turn away.**

P: You have shown us how we are called to relate to persons from different nations and cultures. You have called us to be teachers of your word.

C: **We ask You, O God, to open our minds and hearts to the challenge and invitation to model your perfect example of love. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #296

“What Child is This”

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. ~ O Lord God, You know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As You protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 63: 7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel, but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

- ⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only
is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading ~ Hebrews 2: 10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because He has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again,
"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation



*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 2: 13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

The Holy Gospel according to the 2nd chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his

mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon in Song 🎵

#295 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#270 “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

#277 “Away in a Manger”

#289 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

#290 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

***The Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition, please respond:

Hear us, O God ... **Your mercy is great.**

Anthem

“See the Star”

Blessing of the Elements



The Lord’s Prayer

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #299

“Cold December Flies Away”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve our newborn King!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



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*thank
you*

... to Alicia Baird for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

... to Janet Heckman for serving as our organist



To be remembered in prayer ... Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Steve Schoepple, Barb Shaneberger, Tyler and Elizabeth, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

The altar flowers have been sponsored by
Kay Sheerer
In memory of her Husband



The 2026 flower chart has been posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please sign up for a specific Sunday to sponsor, clearly printing your name and dedication.

Thank you!



Choir members are reminded that there will be no rehearsal this Thursday as Quinette will be away.



May your heart and home be filled with peace
and joy in the New Year ahead.

