



Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church
2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034
December 24th, 2025 ~ 6:00pm

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

- “The First Noel” (1st century English carol)
- “What Child is This” (piano - Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata)
- Duets ~ “What Child is This” and “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”
 - Carolyn Tuomela Wallace and Bill Shoudt
- “Angels We Have Heard on High” (organ)
- Solo ~ “O Holy Night” - Bill Shoudt

Welcome to all worshippers

*Opening Litany ~ “One of Us” (adapted from James Hawes)

- P: For God to become a baby, God had to squeeze into a small space, be confined to a fallible body, restricted to humanity, reduced to limited movements, become weak and vulnerable, and rely on humans for care.
- C: **For Christ to become one of us, He had to be born like us. The light was hidden within Mary’s womb.**
- P: The Bread of Life had to learn how to eat. The One who holds us, first had to be held.
- C: **The Way had to learn to walk.**
- P: The Word had to learn to speak.
- C: **This is our God!**



*Opening Hymn #283

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the one 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.

The First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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.

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

Psalm 96 (spoken responsively ~ lector then congregation)

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.



³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder
and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Choir Anthem

“On This Winter Night”

The Second Reading

Titus 2: 11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



The musical notation consists of two staves in G major, common time. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia.' and 'Lord, to whom shall we go?' The second staff contains the lyrics 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life.' and 'Al - le - lu - ia.'

*The Holy Gospel

Luke 2: 1-14

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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.

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

among those whom the Lord favors!"

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

A Christmas Message

Pastor Lisa Borrell

***Hymn #270**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

***A Christmas Creed (professed together - adapted from Brad Offutt)**

God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us. We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.

God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble. We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.

God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place. We celebrate Your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.

God of deliverance, You came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us. We celebrate Your mercy towards all, especially those who are suffering or in need of forgiveness.

God of birth, when You became as we are, You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are. We celebrate Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always. Keep us close, both now and in the life to come. Amen.

Choir Anthem

"See the Star"



Blessing of the Communion Elements

The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

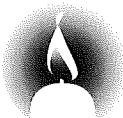
Tonight, the sacrament of Holy Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer in the juice then hand it to the worshipper so they may place it in their own mouth. Young children and youth who do not yet receive the sacrament are welcome to come forward to be given a blessing and a cracker. ♫

Communion Hymns (to be sung by all during the distribution)

#279 ~ "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#289 ~ "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Post-Communion Blessing



*Candle Lighting Ceremony

P: Let us pray. ~ 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.**

Ushers will now come forward to light their candles from the Pastor's. They will then go from pew to pew lighting the candles of the worshippers on the ends of the pews.

Please carefully pass the flame on to the person next to you.

**Note: The lighted candle is never tilted.*

P: "Arise, shine; for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your Light, and to the brightness of your rising." — Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; anyone who believes in me shall not remain in darkness, but shall have the Light of life."

*A Christmas Prayer

*Hymn #281

"Silent Night"

An introductory verse will first be sung in German by Carolyn Tuomela Wallace.

The congregation will then sing all the verses of the hymn, holding candles aloft during the third verse. Candles may be extinguished when the Pastor extinguishes hers.

*The Benediction Blessing

P: Almighty God who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this night through Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

*Recessional Hymn #267

“Joy to the World”

*Dismissal

Go in peace to share the light and love of Christ. ♡

Thanks be to God!

Musical Postlude

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

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With special thanks to:

Kay Sheerer for serving as our lector

Drew Wagner for serving as our live-stream tech

Sharon Edwards for gifting the church with the new Christmas tree and star ornament in loving memory of her husband, Jeff, and granddaughter, Emersynn.

The altar flowers have been sponsored in loving memory of Karl Gross.



The pastor, staff, and Congregational Council all join in wishing you the joy and peace of this holy season.



Poinsettia Sponsors

Pastor Lisa Borrell & Chris Geist in honor of mom, Ann
Quinette Brucker in memory and in honor of loved ones

Karen Bugger in memory of loved ones

Choir members in honor of Pastor Lisa, Quinette, and Janet

Rebecca Callahan Ridgick in loving memory of mother, Leona

Sharon Edwards in loving memory of husband, Jeff, and granddaughter, Emersynn

Diane & Bob Ernst in memory and in honor of loved ones

Janet Heckman in loving memory of husband, Harvey, and son, Rick, and daughter, Bonnie, and parents

Pat Hosler in loving memory of husband, Ron, and parents, Walter & June Kuhns, and grandmother, Florence Buss

Rita & Ron Kozo in memory of loved ones

Bruce & Beth Lesko in loving memory of parents, John & Hilda Lesko, and Bob & Ann Weber

Debbie & Scott Stauffer in loving memory of parents

Laura & Donald Trump in loving memory of son, David

Carl Tyce in honor of parents

Maureen & Ward Wagner in loving memory of their parents

Carolyn Tuomela Wallace in loving memory of parents and grandparents and in honor of grandchildren

George Weiser in loving memory of wife Elaine

