

Unity. Liberty. Love. Serve.



The Nativity (Calvary Moravian Church)

A MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28TH 2025



We welcome all members and guests to our service today, and we are glad that you have joined us for worship at Calvary!

SERVING IN WORSHIP


The Rev. Dr. Chaz Snider, *Pastor*
Mary Louise Kapp Peeples, *Organist*
Betsy Oerter, *Flautist*
Dr. Seth McKnight, *Lay Reader*
Brian Lott, *Band Director*
The Calvary Chancel Choir
The Calvary Band
Bill Seippel, Felix Stultz, & Will Guthrie, *Ushers*
Josephine Rose & Eric Vernon, *Nursery Attendants*

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Jan Trivette.



Nursery is available for all children infant through Pre-K.

There is no Godly Play this morning., New to the Pew bags can be found up front filled with fun activities to help them in worship. All children are welcome!



With Praises and Thanksgiving 309





1 With prais-es and thanks - giv - ing we en - ter this new year;
 2 Like A-bram, called to jour - ney in lands he did not know,
 3 The days are swift - ly pass - ing, time is not ours to hold.


our heav'n-ly Fa - ther's lead - ing has brought us safe - ly here.
 so in this strange new coun - try, this new year, we must go.
 The new year we are greet - ing will soon be - come the old.

The jour - ney set be - fore us is through an un-known land;
 New scenes are spread be - fore us, new vic - t'ries to be won;
 But he who guides us on - ward will grant us in his love,

but we shall fear no e - vil when guid - ed by his hand.
 and like the an - cient fa - ther, in faith we trav - el on.
 when earth - ly years are end - ed, that bright new year a - bove.



GATHERING IN UNITY

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK (ISAIAH 63:7)

*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.*

**** Please stand as you are able.***

BAND PRELUDE

TRINITY CHIME

WELCOME

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LOVE

A MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS READING SERVICE, PART I

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In him was life,
and the life was the light of men.

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

(Standing)

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.
But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth;
we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only son from the Father.

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and uphold it with justice, and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

There shall a star come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

(Please be seated.)

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God."

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephratha, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.

Not Jerusalem – lowly Bethlehem
'twas that gave us Christ to save us;
Not Jerusalem.

Favored Bethlehem! honored is that name;
thence came Jesus to release us;
favored Bethlehem!

In Jerusalem in the days of Herod, King of Judea, it was Zechariah's turn to serve in the temple. At this time the whole congregation was outside praying. Suddenly the messenger of the Lord appeared to him, and said, "Do not be afraid, your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth is to bear you a son and you are to name him John. He will bring you joy and many people will rejoice at his birth."

Zechariah said to the messenger, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is getting on in years."

The messenger replied, "I am Gabriel who stands in God's presence, and I have been sent to bring you this good news. Listen! At the proper time my words will come true, and because you have not believed them, you will be silenced and you will not be able to speak until this has happened."

Meanwhile the people outside were waiting for Zechariah, and were surprised that he had stayed in the holiest place so long. When he came out he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had received a vision in the holiest place. He could only make signs to them, and he remained dumb.

MONKLAND

What the fathers wished of old,
what the promises foretold,
what the seers did prophesy
is fulfilled most gloriously.

When the time of Zechariah's temple service came to an end, he returned home. Some time later his wife Elizabeth realized she was going to have a baby, and for five months she kept away from other people.

Six months after Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, knew she was going to have a child, God sent his messenger Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth to a young girl called Mary who was engaged to be married to a man called Joseph. Joseph was a distant descendant of David who had been king of Israel and Judah about a thousand years before.

Gabriel said to Mary, "Rejoice; you are highly honored! The Lord is with you." Mary was very worried by these words and asked herself what all this could mean; but the messenger said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; God is to do you a great honor. Listen! You are to have a son and you are to name him Jesus. He will be a great man and will be called Son of David; his kingdom will have no end." Mary said to the messenger, "But how can this come about, since I do not yet have a husband." The messenger answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you and the power of the Most High God will be at work within you. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God." Mary said, "I am at the service of the Lord for him to do to me what you have said." Then the messenger left her.

About this time Mary set out and went straight to a town in the uplands of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby that she was carrying leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For behold, when the voice of the greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

(Standing)

And Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His name.

He has shown mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm;

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel,

for He has remembered His promise of mercy,

The promise He made to our Fathers,

to Abraham and his children forever.”

(Please be seated.)

Mary remained with her for about three months, and returned to her home.

Now the time had come for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relations rejoiced with her. The family all wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother spoke up and said, “No, he is to be called John.”

They said to her, “But no one in your family is called John,” and they made signs to his father to try to find out what he wanted the boy to be called.

Zechariah asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” They were all astonished at this, and at that very instant Zechariah’s power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the prophecy:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

he has come to His people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of His servant David.

Through His holy prophets He promised of old that he would save us from our enemies.

From the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant.

This was the oath He swore to our Father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies.

Free to worship Him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

OFFERTORY

Sussex Carol — Peter Crisafulli

DOXOLOGY AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

A MORAVIAN CHRISTMAS READING SERVICE, PART II

The birth of Jesus Christ happened like this. When Mary was engaged to Joseph, just before their marriage, she was discovered to be pregnant – by the Holy Spirit. Whereupon Joseph, her future husband, who was a good man and did not want to see her disgraced, planned to break off the engagement quietly.

But while he was turning the matter over in his mind 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! What she has conceived is through the Holy Spirit and she will give birth to a son, whom you will call Jesus (“the Saviour”) for it is he who will save his people from their sins.” All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel had told him. Then he gave him the name Jesus.

Jesus' Name, Jesus' Name,
Source of life and happiness!
In this Name true consolation
mourning sinners may possess;
here is found complete salvation.
Blessed Jesus, we Thy Name will praise
all our days, all our days.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed;
Mary was that Mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
 let earth receive her King;
 let every heart prepare Him room,
 and heaven and nature sing....

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns;
 let men their songs employ;
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 repeat the sounding joy....

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among all with whom he is pleased.”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

CHRISTMAS SONG

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
 There's a mother's deep prayer, and a baby's low cry!
 And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
 for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king.

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
 that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
 Yes, we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
 And we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life – the Life was made manifest and we saw it and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal Life which was with the Father and which was revealed to us – that we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And this we are writing to you that your joy may be complete.

SENDING TO SERVE

DISTRIBUTION OF WATCHWORDS AND CONGREGATIONAL WATCHWORD FOR 2026

(During the singing of the following hymn, congregational watchwords will be distributed.)

***HYMN #309**

With Praises and Thanksgiving — AURELIA

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

TRINITY CHIME

PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie Johnson; Camilla Williams; Bernard Williams; Earline Pryor; Misty Hayes and family; Noelle Nichols; Rameth McKnight; Ursula Pierce; Steven Nixa; Gary Willis; Lily Shaw; Patrick Biggam; Lynn Biggam; Tommy & Nancy McKoon; Scott & Elaine Peddycord; Judi Chandler; George Tasedan; Sandra Shugart; Bill & Mary Hampton; Haley and Zelda Covert, Richard Hughes, and their family; George Hege; Linda Neighbors; Paul Marshall; Denise Williams; Lisa Hampton; Karen Stewart; Holly and Barry Broadstreet; Ellen Steadman (sister of Jane Sofley); William Hughes; Ramona Prestwood; Johnnie Pearson; Romaine Poindexter; Mary Louise Kapp Peeples; Joeann Settle; Joel C. Lineback; Patsy Lineback; Virginia Segar; Dallas Prestwood; Jean Fordham; The family of Charlie Miller; J. Frank and the family of Jan Trivette

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The Calvary office will be closed Dec. 29th-Jan. 1st.

Amanda will be out of the office today and returns to worship on Jan. 4th.

GRATITUDE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Thank you to every single person who made the Christmas Eve lovefeasts a beautiful reminder of Christ's birth. It is such a gift to the community at Christmastime and your hard work is deeply appreciated.

CHICKEN PIES

We still have a handful of chicken pies available for purchase. To buy them, please contact Jan Bullins.

TAKING DOWN DECORATIONS

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations around the church the week of January 4th. Please contact Chese Trivette (336-608-8398) to let him know your availability so we can pick a day that works best for the most people. Thanks!

2026 BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring the annual Calvary birthday party to celebrate all members' birthdays on Sunday, January 11, 2026 immediately after worship. Lunch will be provided and we are asking for volunteers to sign up to bring monthly themed desserts using the signup sheet found in your weekly e-blast. For any questions, please contact Elaine Peddycord.

2026 FLOWER SIGNUP

Our 2026 flower calendar can be found on the podium in the narthex with opportunities for you to sign up for specific dates throughout the year. This is a great way to honor loved ones by dedicating a Sunday flower arrangement.

BREAKFAST BUNCH

January 6th, 9 AM at Carriage House. Please contact Pat George (336) 971-3429 or Linda Smith (336) 978-6082 to RSVP.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY & PRAYER

Virtual prayer meetings will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, at 9:00 AM via Zoom. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13th. This Zoom prayer time will last about 15 minutes, and gives us an additional opportunity to check in and share the people and things that we hold in our hearts. The link to join the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81364100880>