

Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358



Children's Christmas Program December 10, 2023



Scan with your Smartphone and link to our web page,
our Facebook page, and our YouTube Channel.

GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Pam Sherman**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pr Mel Musser**
- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

R: Isaiah speaks of our God as a shepherd.

C: **God will feed us and gather us in God's arms.**

R: *(light candle 1)* This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.

C: *(light candle 2)* **This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way.**

- * **GATHERING SONG "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LBW 41**
(First verse only)

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

- * **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

-
- * Please stand if able
 - Please be seated

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray... God of love, you comfort us in our worry and our sorrows. You promise to restore us now and eternally. Sustain us in our waiting during this Advent season and always. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

WORD

Stellar Christmas

Cast

Host	Mercedes Angles
Starlets	Crew Baker, Sophia Boston, Ruby Jackson
Cosmo	Russel Daniels
Ringo	Jackson Baker
Luna/Angel	Rhyan Cool
Sol	Sylvia Boston
Haley	Ruby Jackson
Mary	Sophia Boston
Joseph	Gabe Angles
Shepherds/Romans	Micah Angles, Miles Jackson, Carter Kemp
Reader	Carlee Kemp
Sheep	Crew Baker

Scene 1: Welcome!

Host: Merry Christmas, everyone! Welcome to Stellar Christmas.

We're here to celebrate the out-of-this-world way God sent his Son, Jesus, to bring light and life to the world! My name is Mercedes, and I'll be your host!

We are stars who shine Jesus' light everywhere we go.

Together, we'll bring the true meaning of Christmas to light as we remember and talk about the night Jesus was born.

Let's all warmup with a song! Kids of all ages, be sure to sing along!

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

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Music Video: “Shine”

Scene 2: Twinkle, Twinkle!

Host: Just look at these all-stars! We are the stars twinkling in the night sky when Jesus was born. And today we’ll “shine Jesus’ light”.

Now let’s get this Christmas celebration started, shall we? First up, our tiniest stars—please welcome our starlets! Our littlest stars shine Jesus’ light in an extra-special way.

Preschoolers learned a special song to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” Starlets, will you sing it for us?

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, *(Fling out flingers four times, like blinking lights)*

Jesus loves you as you are. *(Hug yourself)*

You are special, yes, it’s true. *(Point forward, then nod head “yes”)*

I’m so glad that God made you. *(Put hand on chest, then point up with both hands)*

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, *(Fling out flingers four times, like blinking lights)*

Jesus loves you as you are. *(Hug yourself)*

Host: Thank you, starlets! Let’s clap for them!

Scene 3: When Life Feels Dark... Shine Jesus’ Light!

Host: Stars, it looks like your feet are getting a little tired. Why don’t you sit down right here onstage and make yourselves comfortable. We don’t want you to become falling stars! *(Allow time.)* And whew! I don’t want this to be a one-person show, so let’s let some Bible Memory Buddies take center stage, too! They’re members of the heavenly host who welcomed Jesus to our planet on that first Christmas. Let’s welcome these celestial beings! First there’s Cosmo the star. Look at Cosmo shine! Cosmo, in your clearest and most sparkling voice, please say, “**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**”

Cosmo: “**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**”

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Host: Then there's Ringo the planet! See the "rings go" round? Ringo, give that hula hoop a little spin around your waist and say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah!".

Ringo: "Yeah, yeah, yeah!".

Host: Ooh la la! It's Luna the moon. Luna's just beaming with excitement! Luna, shine your biggest and brightest smile.

Host: Next, we have Sol the sun. Sol is our sunshine, our only sunshine! Sol, can you move your hula hoop in a circle, so it shines on all of us? And finally, it's Haley the comet! Halley loves to orbit. Haley, spin in a circle three times and say, "Hey, hey, hey!"

Haley: "Hey, hey, hey!"

Host: Cosmo, you'll help us get this Christmas story started. Step right up here beside me. Did you know that a lot of stars like Cosmo are even bigger and brighter than the sun? They shine through the darkness from far away to remind us that when life feels dark... **Shine Jesus' light!** (EVERYONE) **Shine Jesus' light.** The world felt dark before Jesus came. That's because sin and sadness had brought gloom and darkness. Sin is like a sickness that causes people to make wrong choices. Those wrong choices hurt others and keep people from being close to God.

Cosmo: People needed a rescuer to save them from sin and shine God's love into their lives. So, God sent Jesus! Jesus is the light of the world because he shows God's love and forgiveness to everyone who believes in him.

Scene 4: When People Don't Get Along... Shine Jesus' Light!

Host: Yes, the world had a problem—and still has a problem. Sin causes all sorts of troubles, including one that Ringo will explain to us. Ringo, will you help us tell the next part of the story?

Ringo: "Yeah, yeah, yeah!"

Host: This is Ringo, a planet! Ringo, give your ring a little spin around your waist again. Ringo's rings may look like one piece, but they're made up of billions of chunks of rock and ice. That rock and ice sticks together instead of breaking apart. Ringo's rings remind us that it's good for people to stick together, too, and that when people don't get along- **Shine Jesus' light!** – (EVERONE) **Shine Jesus' light!**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Ringo: People weren't getting along so well before Jesus was born. A nation called Rome had taken over everything! The Romans in charge didn't really care about God's people. Rome just wanted to be big and great.

Romans: "We're big and great!"

Ringo: Well, to pay for being big and great, Rome collected money from all the people—got to love taxes! Joseph and Mary had to pay Rome taxes, too. There they are now! *Point at Mary and Joseph entering from the back of the room.* God chose them to be Jesus' parents on earth! They are on their way to Bethlehem to pay taxes because that was Joseph's family's hometown.

Reader: From Luke, chapter 2, verses 4-7: "And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child."

Mary and Joseph arrive onstage and sit at the manger scene.

Reader: "And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them."

Mary and Joseph give each other a high-five.

Host: Yes, the silent stars shone in the Bethlehem sky to celebrate the special child—God's Son, Jesus! It all happened in a little town called Bethlehem. Everyone let's sing about it!

Music Video: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Scene 5: When Good Things Happen... Shine Jesus' Light!

Host: Talk about a good thing! Jesus was born!

Let's hear our next Bible Point from Luna. It's Luna—the Earth's moon! Luna sure can brighten up the night sky with that smile. Luna, show us that dazzling smile again. *Allow time for Luna to give another big cheesy smile.* Luna doesn't make light but simply reflects the good light the sun is shining. That reminds us that when good things happen...: **Shine Jesus' light!** (EVERYONE) **Shine Jesus' light!**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

God wanted people to know about this good news, so he sent a special message. I'll tell you what happened.

But first we'll meet the shepherds.

Host: Hi, shepherds. Give everyone a wave! *Shepherds wave.*

We next meet an angel.

It's your turn! Give us a wave, angel! *Angel waves.*

Now, audience, we'll need your help for the other two parts. First, you'll be a flock of sheep. When you hear the word "sheep," baa as loudly as you can for five seconds. Give it a try! Ready? Go. (HOLD UP FINGERS WHILE COUNTING TO 5)

Great! Next, you'll be the heavenly host that joins the angel. When you hear "Glory!" lift your hands toward the roof to praise God. Like this! Join me! Lift both hands like you're "raising the roof" as you say, "Glory to God!" I think you're ready!

That night, there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Look! There they are now. *Shepherds, please walk up and down the center aisle with your sheep.* Those sheep are too quiet. Audience, can you change that? Cue the baaas!

Angel, it's your time to shine! Stand up nice and tall, throw your hands up in the air, and say, "Ta-da!"

Angel: "Ta-da!"

Host: Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. Angel, give us another good "Ta-da!"

Angel: "Ta-da!"

Host: The shepherds were startled! Show your startled faces, shepherds. *Allow time for shepherds to look startled.* They were scared! Show how you crouch down on the ground when you're scared, shepherds! *Allow time.* The shepherds gasped with fear. Do you hear them? *Encourage shepherds to gasp.* I think it was louder than that. Everyone, gasp like you're terrified, then hold your breath! *Lead everyone in taking a big breath in.* The shepherds were terrified, but the **angel said, "Don't be afraid!"** Whew! Everyone, let out your breath with relief! *Allow time.* Just for fun, angel, give us one more "Ta-da!" *Allow time.*

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Angel: “Ta-da! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!” There they are!” *While talking with the shepherds, point to Mary and Joseph.* You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

Host: So cute! Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, “Glory!” Audience, that’s your cue. “Raise the roof” and say, “Glory to God!” *Allow time.* I said glory!

Audience lifts hands and says, “Glory to God!”

Host: One more time—glory!

Audience lifts hands and says, “Glory to God!” again.

Host: What a night! If you’re able, let’s stand and celebrate the light and life that Jesus brings.

Music Video: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Scene 6: When People Are Sad... Shine Jesus’ Light!

Host: What a good night! When good things happen... **Shine Jesus’ light!** **(EVERYONE) Shine Jesus’ light!** Let’s read what the shepherds did next. Let’s welcome our reader to the stage.

Reader: Luke chapter 2, verses 15 and 16: “When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.”

Host: You heard right, shepherds—hurry on over to Mary and Joseph to meet baby Jesus. *Shepherds hurry to where Mary and Joseph are sitting.* I’m not sure how long they hung out with baby Jesus—maybe until the sun came up the next day. Speaking of the sunrise, Sol, move on over here. Sol the sun shines on us! Sol, spin that hoop in a shiny circle again—kind of like a steering wheel! Oooo! Shiny! Sol is the Earth’s sun! Sol’s sunny rays can bring cheer on the saddest of days. Which reminds me when people are sad... **Shine Jesus’ light! (EVERYONE) Shine Jesus’ light!**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Sol: You see, Jesus is a gift for everyone. Because Jesus was born, he knows what it's like to be human. Jesus knows what it's like to laugh until your sides hurt.

Jesus knows how it feels to see a good friend.

Yes, Jesus knows all about the good stuff about being human. And Jesus also knows sad stuff, too. Jesus knows what it's like to cry and have a headache. Jesus knows what it's like to say goodbye to people we love.

Jesus, God's one and only Son, entered our sadness to bring us life and hope. He gave up everything, including his life, to show God's love. John 3:16 says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Through Jesus, the God of the stars showed how much he loves people—including each one of you.

Host: Let's pray. Let's all close our eyes so all we see is darkness.

God of the universe, we thank you that you love and care for us, even when we're sad. Jesus, right now we pause to think about things in our lives that make us sad this Christmas. *Pause.* Now let's open our eyes to see the light around us as we end our prayer. Jesus, just as light shines in this room, may your light shine in our hearts, bringing hope and peace. And may your light shine through us, sharing your joy with others. Amen.

Scene 7: When People Need Help... Shine Jesus' Light!

Host: Let's hear from our last Buddy—it's Halley the comet! Halley, come stand by me. Halley is a comet! Halley races around space in huge orbits, passing a lot of planets along the way. Halley, will you orbit around this room for us? Run all the way around everyone in this room.

Halley, on your mark, get set, go! *Halley races around the auditorium as everyone cheers.* Whew! When you're running around, don't forget to look for people in need! When people need help **Shine Jesus' light!** (EVERYONE) **Shine Jesus' light!** The shepherds needed help telling people about Jesus! Shepherds, are you ready? The shepherds raced back to Bethlehem, and they took Jesus' light with them! Halley, you go ahead and race around with them! *Shepherds race back to the center aisle, and Halley goes with them.* The shepherds told everyone what had happened. Their lights shone brightly for Jesus! And so can yours! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Scene 8: Let It Shine!

Host: All right! We have a light!

Let's hold our lights high and and let 'em shine, let 'em shine, let 'em shine! Sing with us!

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

Host: Well, folks, this has been a Stellar Christmas! Thanks for shining Jesus' light with us here in [name of your town].

P: That was really great. Outstanding performance by all. I thank everyone who helped make this program possible. PJ, Linda, parents and grandparents who brought the children to the practices. Of course, a great big thank you to all of you kids who brought the story of the birth of Jesus to light this morning. Our biggest thank you goes to God our mighty Lord who loved us so much he gave his only son to us as our best Christmas present ever. Our Worship will now continue with the Prayers of Intercession...

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Loving God, you call us through the prophets to prepare the way of Jesus. Make our hearts ready to receive your most precious gift. God of Promise,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Bless all wilderness and direct us to the care and preservation of national parks and other wild spaces, that all might have the opportunity to experience their beauty. God of Promise,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: You do not call the equipped, but equip the called. Prepare all new leaders with everything they need to serve with humility and commitment. God of Promise,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Enfold in your healing arms all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, *(especially...)* Strengthen and comfort them through your boundless love. God of Promise,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

L: Equip scientists and medical workers who strive to keep major public health threats at bay, that all might live in safe and healthy communities. God of Promise,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember with gratitude the saints who taught us to prepare the way of Jesus in our lives and our churches. Keep us mindful of their example as we work to get ready for the coming Christmas celebrations. God of Promise,

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

L: We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

C: Amen.

MEAL

*** OFFERING**

P: As we collect our offering here in person, those worshipping with us through the internet, may you go to our website located at www.pitsburgtlc.org where you'll find a button labeled "Give to Trinity." You can make your offering to God through our secure website.

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

While the congregation is standing say:

P: Let's pray for the offerings we receive this day.... Holy God, you have given us all we need, material and immaterial, even to the gift of your own Son. Receive now our gifts as a sign of our gratitude and faithfulness to you, and use them for your good work in the world.

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We are united together by this heavenly food, which is the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. So, let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: 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.

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

SENDING

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

- * **SENDING HYMN “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** **LBW 55**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

- * **DISMISSAL**

P: Until the next time we gather together as God's people to offer our worship and praise, depart in Christ's Love.

C: **Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!**

- * **POSTLUDE**

Pam Sherman

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- * Please stand if able

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Lector	Kathy Kathman
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser

This Week @ Trinity – December 10 thru December 17, 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun, Dec. 10	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Children’s Christmas Program
Mon, Dec. 11	7:30 pm	Dartball at First UMC, Greenville
Wed, Dec. 13	6:30 pm	Advent Soup Supper/Devotion
Fri, Dec. 15	3:30 pm	FISH Choice Food Pantry
Sat, Dec. 16	10:00 am	Bell Ringing at Walmart
Sun, Dec. 17	9:30 am	Christian Conversations (Coffee/Juice and Donuts)
	10:30 am	Worship Service


SAVE THE DATE!

- **December 6, 13, 20 – Advent Soup Supper & Devotion @ 6:30 PM**
- **December 16 and 21– Bell ringing at Walmart (Sign Up Sheet on Communications Table)**
- **December 24:**
 - **Advent 4 Worship @ 10:30 am**
 - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 4:00 & 10:00 pm**

* Please stand if able

• Please be seated

Health Tips for the Week
MIND: Make a Christmas craft.
BODY: Smile
SPIRIT: Sing Christmas Carols

 Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 17th
 Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Holy Communion Delivery Available to ALL:

If you or anyone you know would like to have Holy Communion delivered to a home or place of business, please call Pastor Mel at 937-626-7100. He will bring a prefilled communion chalice including both sanctified wine and a morsel of bread all prepackaged from the Concordia True Vine company. This is a safe way to stay connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.



Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3

If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

*** Youth Quake is coming!**

- Jan 4-6 2024
- Cincinnati Holiday Inn
- Ages 7th Grade-12th Grade
- See Pr Mel or PJ if interested



Trinity Contact Info

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- * Please stand if able
- Please be seated