CHRISTMAS EVE – 2019
ECHOES OF THE MANGER

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Oh, Come, Little Children
1. Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,
   To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.
   God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
   To be your Redeemer, your joy and delight.

2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;
   Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
   In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,
   And purer than angels, the heavenly child!

3. See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes
   Are gazing upon the rude bed where he lies.
   The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love
   While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

4. Children

OPENING SERVICE
P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.
C: My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation
   all day long, though I know not its measure.
P: I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O sovereign Lord; I
   will proclaim your righteousness, your alone.
Children: Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this
day I declare your marvelous deeds.
C: Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God,
   till I declare your power to the next generation, your
   might to all who are to come.
P: Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you have done
great things. Who, O God, is like you?
C: I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my
   God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of
   Israel.

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P: My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I whom you
   have redeemed.
C: My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long.

INTRODUCTION & PRAYER (Pastor)

HYMN: # 42 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

PART 1: ECHOES OF PROMISE
Recitations
Narrations

HYMN: # 28 vv 1-4 – Let The Earth Now Praise the Lord

PART 2: ECHOES OF BETHLEHEM
Recitations
Narrations

HYMN: # 65 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

PART 3: ECHOES FROM THE FIELDS OF BETHLEHEM
Recitations
Narrations

HYMN: # 62 – Joy to the World
v 1 – children
vv 2-4 - congregation

Narration
Song: Away In A Manger

PART 4: ECHOES OF JESUS' FRIENDS YESTERDAY AND TODAY
Recitation

P: Of the thousands of years that have come and gone since
creation, Jesus actually lived with us here on earth for a little over 30 years. We have written testimony of many of those closest to Jesus who couldn’t help but echo their love and faith in him. Simon Peter echoed his faith in Matthew 16 verse 16:

C: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
P: Nathanael echoed his faith in John 1:
C: Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.
P: Martha echoed her testimony in John 11:
C: Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was come into the world.
P: Thomas echoed his faith in John 20:
C: My Lord and my God.
P: Even the Roman centurion, when he looked at Jesus on the cross, couldn’t hold back his feelings as he echoed these most wonderful words in Matthew 27:
C: Surely he was the Son of God.

HYMN: # 46 - Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We
v 1 – children
vv 2-4 - congregation

PART 5: ECHOES OF GOD’S GREAT LOVE
Recitations
Narration
Song: Go Tell It on the Mountain

OFFERINGS – PRAYERS

RESPONSIVE READING
P: But these echoes of the manger do little if we keep them to ourselves. Echoes are meant to be heard not once but many, many times. Paul told Timothy:
C: Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.
P: Peter said:
C: Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
P: Jesus once told a friend:
C: Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: # 60 - Silent Night! Holy Night
v 1 – children
vv 2-3 - congregation

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We thank the teachers and students of our Sunday School for bringing us the glorious news of our newborn Savior in word and song during tonight’s Christmas service. We also thank our organist, Sarah Berg.

We hope that you will join us for our joint Christmas Day service tomorrow at Trinity at 9:00 am. It will not be the same as this evening’s service.

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday.

Your 2020 offering envelopes are available in the basement of church.

St. John’s will have a joint New Year’s Eve service at 7:30 pm. Holy Communion will be offered in this service.

Our Worship Services will be held at their usual times on Sunday: 8:30 am at Trinity and 10:00 am at St John’s. There will be no Sunday School or Bible classes.

Pastor Bilitz has accepted the Call to serve as Vacancy Pastor at St. John’s-St. Clair. During the vacancy, beginning January 5th, there will be changes to our worship service and Sunday School times:

8:30 am – Sunday School at Trinity
9:30 am – Worship Service at Trinity
10:00 am – Sunday School at St. John’s
11:00 am – Worship Service at St. John’s

The service in St. Clair will be at 8:00 am.

Pastor and Carol would like to wish all of you a joyous Christmas and a Christ-filled New Year!
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church      Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Alma City, MN                              Smiths Mill, MN
Phone: 234-5353                           Phone: 234-5547

Members of WELS

Pastor Keith J. Biltz   Phone: 382-8625
                      Internet: www.stjohn-trinity.org
                      https://www.facebook.com/stjandtr
                      email: stjandtr@hotmail.com