

**OPENING HYMN:** # 71 – *The Old Year Now Has Passed Away*

**OPENING SERVICE**

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: We have gathered together in this special worship service to thank our God for another year of praise in his sanctuary.

**C: He is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

P: Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who minister in the house of the Lord. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

**C: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him, tell of all his wonderful acts.

**C: I will sing of the love of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

P: May the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, bless us.

**C: God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS and ABSOLUTION**

P: In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. Amen.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

P: Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C: Yes, I believe.**

P: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**FIRST LESSON** - *1 Peter 1:22-25*

**PSALM OF THE DAY** - *Psalm 90 (page 99)*

**GOSPEL LESSON** - *Luke 13:6-9*

**HYMN** - # 70 – *Help Us, O Lord, for Now We Enter*

**SERMON** - *Luke 24:28-29*

*OUR NEW YEAR'S PRAYER TO JESUS: "STAY WITH US!"*

**OFFERINGS**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

P: In these last hours of the year we lift up our voices, reflecting on the praises and petitions our Lord Jesus gave us as an outline for praying:

**C: Our Father in heaven.**

P: Eternal God, our Creator, in your mercy you have restored us as your forgiven children. Trusting in Jesus' sacrifice and victory in our place, we come before you tonight.

**C: Hallowed by your name.**

P: We revere your supreme majesty as Designer of your universe and author of time. Help us to know you as Lord of our lives here and in eternity, as you have revealed in your holy Word.

**C: Your Kingdom come.**

P: Uphold your claim on our hearts; reign in our lives, and employ us for sowing the seed of your saving Word in more and more hearts in the year ahead.

**C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

P: Overcome the influence of Satan on us in this fallen world, and make us earnest to conform our desires and our actions to your plan for our future with you.

**C: Give us today our daily bread.**

P: Sustainer of life, you have provided for our bodily necessities in the year past. Fill us with appreciation and trust. We trust you to continue to provide all we need for body and life. Year by year keep us alert for meeting the needs of others.

**C: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

P: Continue to show us your pardon for Jesus' sake, and keep us ready to do good even to those who do wrong to us. While there still is time in this passing life, help us point them to your saving mercy.

**C: Lead us not into temptation,**

P: Defeat the enemy who wants to strangle our faith in disregard for your Word. Bring to naught the world's ruinous appeal to our self centered nature, and deliver us from the hold of unrepented sin.

**C: Deliver us from evil.**

P: Be with us through every trouble, so that when we depart this life we will still be trusting and walking with our living Savior.

**C: The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

P: We look to you as Lord of time, Governor of your universe, Head of your Church, and we join with angels to adore you from whom all blessings flow.

**ALL: We are relying on Jesus whose perfect obedience and atoning death have made us acceptable in your sight. His resurrection assures his promises, and we look into the future eagerly awaiting his return. Now then, as your children we pray with confidence. Amen.**

#### COMMUNION SERVICE

- Words of Institution & Distribution - Page 35 ff
- Distribution Hymn # 441 (# 72 if needed)

CLOSING HYMN # 588 vv 1,6,7 – *Abide with Me*

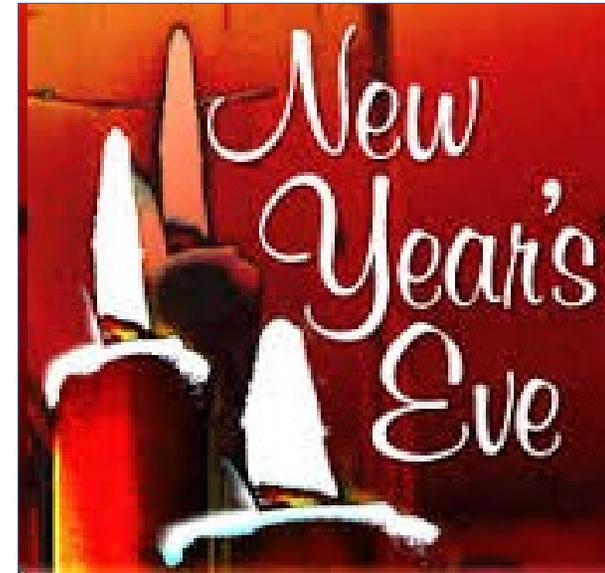
Organist : David Bilitz

Holy Communion will be offered in our service today. We practice *Close Communion*. Visitors from our sister congregations in the WELS and ELS are welcome to commune with us. If you are a guest and wish to commune, please speak to the Pastor before the service.

January calendars and *Forward in Christ* magazines are available.

Holy Communion will also be offered at our regular Sunday morning services: Trinity - 8:30 and St. John's - 10:00. Sunday School classes will also resume: St. John's – 9:00 and Trinity's – 9:30.

We wish all of you a most blessed New Year!



Joint New Year's Eve Service  
at  
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Smiths Mill  
December 31, 2014