

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

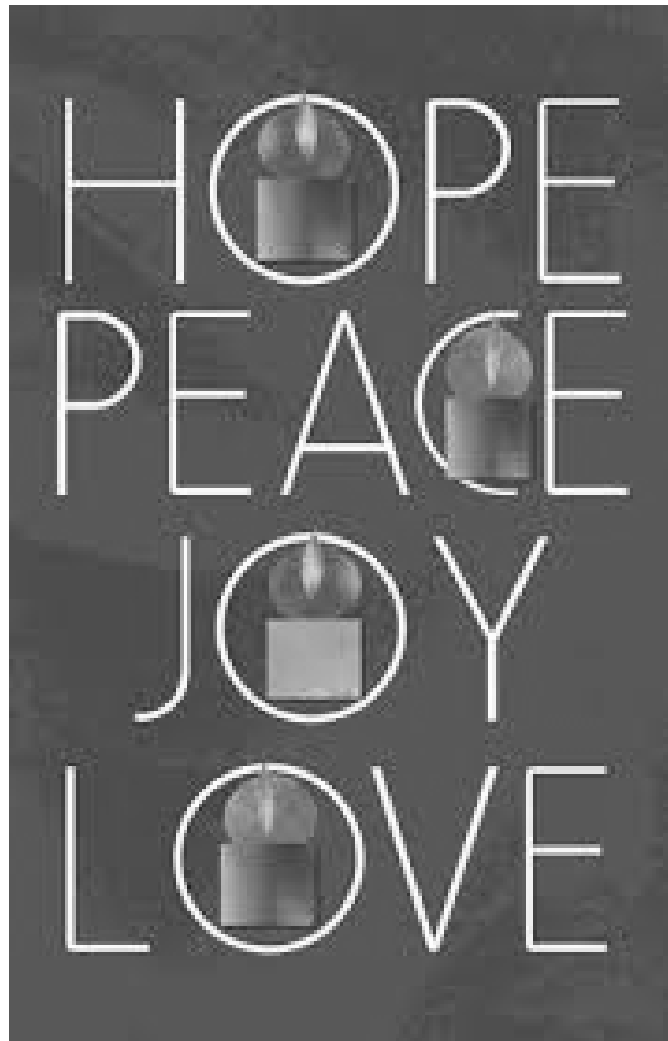
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December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Advent



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Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 5

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of all time,

C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

JESUS: GOD WITH US

P During Advent we celebrate that God comes to his people.

Jesus is the One-who-comes;

Jesus is the One-who-rules.

Jesus is the One-who-was-promised

C Jesus is God-with-us. We worship him! (Four candles are lit.)

P Jesus shines as God with us.

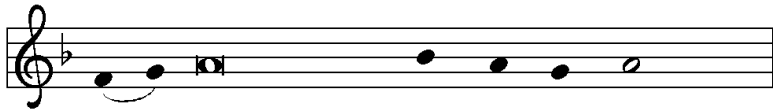
C Let the light shine!

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



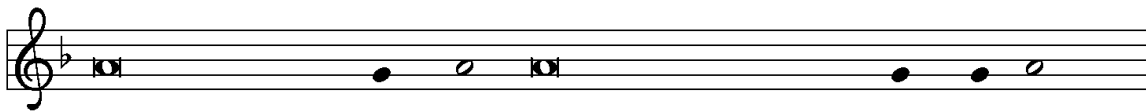
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and
might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive
your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, 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, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

PR. ELWYN LUBER

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW HYMN 263

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A For the church universal and all servants of the gospel, for poets and artists, for musicians and preachers, and for theologians and teachers; that all proclaim that God is with us in Christ, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

A For all plants and animals, seas and skies, snow and rain, and all of God's marvels; that all of creation grow and thrive as we bless, protect, and use with care what God has made, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

A For the nations and those in authority, for peace and justice throughout the whole world, and for those who advocate on behalf of others; that all in positions of leadership choose what is good for the community, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

A For the thirsty and hungry, the weak and fearful, those in childbirth, those who mourn, and the sick, especially Marsha Chelson, Lucille Brill, Mike Jackson, and Cathy Tunnell, that they know Christ the Anointed One who dries every tear and comforts those who suffer, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

A For those who travel near and far, for those who prepare our congregation for worship and celebration, and for those who gather around word and sacrament; that all experience welcome and refreshment, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

A For those who gather for word and sacrament, including the Missouri congregations of Hope Lutheran in St. Charles, Christ & Trinity Lutheran in Sedalia, and Our Savior Lutheran in Salem, and also St. John Lutheran in Salina, Kansas, that they spread your Word with joy, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

A For Edwin Brown, Troy Pomeroy, and Jeff Longren and they celebrate their birthdays this week; and for Marlys Hiltgen and Tresa Johnson as they remember their baptisms, let us pray,

C Have mercy, O God.

A In thanksgiving for the saints who have died and are at rest; that the witness of their faith point us to the promises of resurrection in Christ, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Create In Me A Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

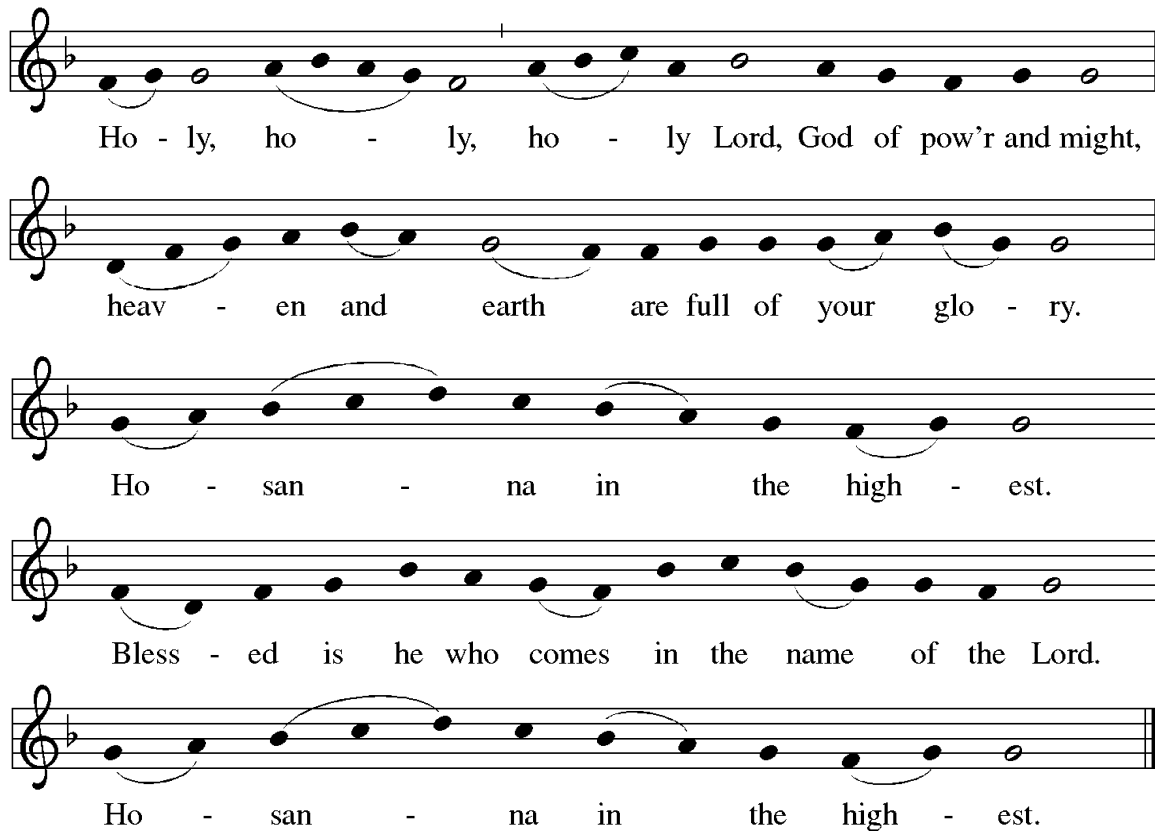
OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.
- C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, self-control and justice.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

We invite all the to share with us in Holy Communion. All are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available as an alternative to wine. Children and/or adults who do not receive communion are invited to come forward with their families to receive a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* **ELW HYMN 265**
Love Has Come **ELW HYMN 292**

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Fling Wide the Door

ELW HYMN 259

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to worship at Trinity!

Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you have found the Spirit of God in our midst. If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, or have other questions, please contact the church office, 233-0767.

Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for refreshments after worship.

We welcome Pastor Elwyn Luber to worship again today and say “thank you” for being with us.



CELEBRATE

Epiphany

WITH YOUR OWN NATIVITY

Before you pack away your Nativity Set for Christmas 2017, share it with all the members of Trinity during coffee hour **January 6.**

Please bring a brief story about your personal Crèche: "This was my Grandmother's," or "I brought this from Germany," or "We got this the first Christmas we were married!" And let us know who brought each one. Of course, you may bring more than one!

Come a little early for SS or Church and set it up on one of the tables in Fellowship Hall. What a beautiful way of sharing this **BLESSED SEASON!**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Dec. 18.....	Children's Sunday School	9:00 AM
.....	Adult Sunday School & Confirmation Class	9:15 AM
.....	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
Mon., Dec 19	Women's AA.....	5:00 PM
Wed., Dec. 21	Women's AA.....	5:30 PM
Thurs., Dec. 22.....	Men's AA	6:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship	4:00 PM
Sun., Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
.....	Adult Sunday School & Confirmation Class	9:15 AM
.....	Worship with Holy Communion	10:30 AM

There will not be an Advent service on Wednesday, December 21st.

The annual meeting has been scheduled for January 15, 2017, immediately after worship. Please begin preparing and submitting committee reports to be included in the Annual Report booklet.

Annual reports are required to be published one week before the Annual Meeting. In order to have them ready on January 8, 2017, please have reports turned in to the office by December 28, 2016. Documents needed include minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting, President's report, budget documents, Doorstep report, Learning Committee report, LFACT report, Memorial report, Personnel Committee report, Property Committee report, Quilters report, WELCA/Priscilla Circle report, Witness/Outreach report, Worship & Music report. There may be others not listed here.

I thank everyone for timely submission of reports for the monthly Council meetings and I expect nothing less for the Annual Report. Thanks to everyone who serves!

Good news! We have an interim leader starting in January. His name is Alan Saatkamp and he will begin work the first week of January. His first day to lead worship will be Sunday, January 8, 2017.

Alan lives in Shawnee, Kansas and will be serving our congregation four days a week.

Alan has a varied background with experience not only as an interim pastor, but also as a parish administrator, pastor's assistant, substitute middle school teacher and a veteran's home administrator. He has a political science degree from the University of Wisconsin, a master's degree in health care from the University of Minnesota and has studied theology at the Sioux Falls Seminary and has had training in other specific topics.

We are happy to welcome Alan to our congregation and look forward to working with him.

In January, we will have some guest speakers. On January 15, Rev. Barry Feaker from the Topeka Rescue Mission will give the sermon. On January 22, Pr. Keith Hohly from the Central States Synod office will conduct the worship and preach.

Remember our shut-ins!

Kathryn Axelton
Lucille Brill
Peggy Buchholz
Marlene Hassan
Marie Henriksen
Howard Kunard
Don Longren

Shawn Nowak
Roy O'Neil
Ron Owensby
Keith Springer
Naomi Walker
Evelyn Johnson



Please call the office, 233-0767.
promptly about hospitalizations in our church family.

To share a prayer request please contact Barbara Apps at 234-5130. She will get the prayer chain started.

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE						
Date	General	Building Fund	Other	Flowers	Total	Attendance
Nov. 20	\$1,025.00	\$45.00	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$1,094.00	40
Nov. 27	\$827.00	\$20.00	\$280.28	\$0.00	\$1,127.28	37
Dec. 4	\$6,072.00	\$345.00	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$6,552.00	36
Dec. 11	\$5,026.81	\$130.00	\$367.00	\$0.00	\$5,523.81	76
The money shown in the "Other" column is restricted and not available for our general fund.						

Month/Year	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Net Income	Year to Date	Budgeted Income
August 2016	\$19,135.26	\$14,810.01	\$4,231.62	-\$15,674.16	\$13,547.18
Sept 2016	\$8,564.12	\$10,343.28	-\$1,779.16	-\$17,553.32	\$13,547.18
Oct. 2016	\$11,200.51	\$7716.44	\$3484.07	-\$14,069.25	\$13,547.18
Nov. 2016	\$8,589.75	\$8,200.91	\$388.84	-\$13,680.41	\$13,547.18

Worship Assistants								
Date	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Organist; Choir Director; Keyboard	Lector	Altar Guild	Coffee Host(s)	Assisting Minister	Presiding Minister
December 18, 2016	Donna Allen	Duane Pomeroy	Laurie Jackson	Debbie Pomeroy	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Donna Allen, Carol Marker, & Marilyn Heckman	Walt Laughlin	Pr. Elwyn Luber
December 24, 2016 Christmas Eve	Gay & Carol Marker	Diane Bottorff	Laurie Jackson	Duane Pomeroy	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3		Bob Horton	Pr. Shawn Norris
December 25, 2016	Bob & Pam Kobbeman	Diane Bottorff	Laurie Jackson		Pam Kobbeman & Team 3		Vickie Jacobs	Pr. Michael Haar



**The mission of
Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church
is to**

- worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
- serve those in need, and
- reach out to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ!

Together in Community • **L**iving with Christ • **C**aring for Neighbors

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org

Congregation Council

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Curt Lewis _____ 286-2728
Vice President Bob Horton _____ 640-5344
Secretary Carol Marker _____ 862-1588
Treasurer Janice Greenlee _____ 231-3085
Co-Treasurer Cindy McGinnis _____ 233-0767

Members

Diane Bottorff _____ 271-7131
 Bob Horton _____ 640-5344
 Bob Kobbeman _____ 379-9480
 Linda Longren _____ 233-9473
 Dean McGinnis _____ 272-0255
 Emily McGinnis _____ 230-4529
 Ted Murphy _____ 357-4031
 Ted Quast _____ 301-514-0307
 Howard Reece _____ 286-1959
 Junior Utech _____ 272-0664