

Trinity Lutheran Church

December 31,
2023

First Sunday Of Christmas

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

Website

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sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

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(507) 794-5051

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Office Hours

Mon-Thurs
9am –3pm

Ministers

Every member

Interim Pastor

Grant Fischer
(320) 444-3517
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Darlene Brummund
507 276-8013

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Secretary

Pat Stevermer
794-7112

Organist /

Choir Director

Mary Mulry
794-3768

Custodian

Pat Lowther

THE CHILD GREW...
AND  THE

FAVOR OF
GOD

WAS UPON HIM.

LUKE 2:40

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday, December 31, 2023

First
Sunday
of
Christmas



ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP!

We gather on this First Sunday after Christmas Day with continuing joy to praise Almighty God for our Savior's birth. Quiet warmth and calm characterizes today's worship as we celebrate the season with carols. We are reminded that each of us is given the assurance of God's everlasting promises which we share with the whole church triumphant!

Please sign the Welcome pads as they are passed during the time of offering. Everyone is invited to fellowship, and refreshments being served immediately after our service in the library. Rest assured, your presence today is a blessing to all who are gathered here today, and likewise, may you be blessed by the worship we share. MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GATHERING

WE PREPARE: In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

PRELUDE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

ELW #275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

who made them stand fast forever and ever,

giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted,

whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

SONG

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



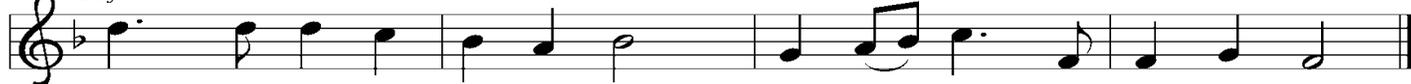
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life. **Amen.**

Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. Your sins are forgiven in ✠ Jesus' name. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD & SONG

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The first reading is from Isaiah chapter 61, verse 10 thru chapter 62 verse 3. To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



SONG

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW #282 (vs. 1, 4)

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all - gra - cious king.”
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

The second reading is from Galatians chapter 4, verses 4-7.

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ’s birth was to liberate us from the law’s condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God’s family as sons and daughters.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 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;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE



Pastor Grant Fischer



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

APOSTLE'S CREED

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.



THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor...)

SONG

Go Tell it on the Mountain

ELW #290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



(The offering is brought forward by the ushers to the acolyte)

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaimed to you: That God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth.

But if we walk in the Light, as he is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

SENDING SONG

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW #545



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!



Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ

Accompanist	Cindy Anderson
Acolyte	Carson Uecker
Readers	Diane Evers
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner
Ushers	Eric & Juli Wahlborg

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY WITH THE COOKIE WALK! Whether you baked, worked or bought, you are vital to make this work for people in need. Together we raised over \$1200.00 to help those in need in our area. Thanks also to Thrivent for donating \$250.00 toward our efforts. Heartfelt thanks for making the 33rd year of Trinity's Cookie Walk such a success.



Blessings to you all, Darlene Brummund,
President of your WELCA



***There will be NO Church School or Confirmation January 3rd.
Classes resume Jan. 10th at 6:30 & 7:00 PM. See you then!***

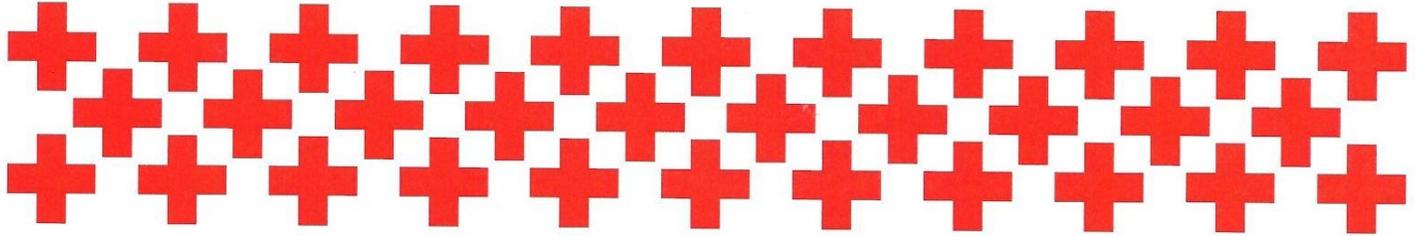
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Altar Guild is seeking additional members. Duties include light cleaning, setting up & cleaning up following communion services, handling floral arrangements and other similar weekly tasks.

For more information, please contact Joleen Dittbenner or leave your name and number in church office. Thank you.



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Sleepy Eye Community Event Center**

110 12th Ave NE
Sleepy Eye, MN

Tuesday, January 9, 2024
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Sleepy Eye to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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JANUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 31, 2023 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour 	1 Office Closed 	2 6:30 pm AA	3 9 am-Women's Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Parish Planning Council Budget Meeting	4 7 am-Men's Bible Study	5	6
7 8:15 am Trinity Choir 9 am- Holy Communion 10 am Fellowship Hour 	8 9 am Quilting Noon WELCA 	9 6:30 pm AA Blood Drive Sleepy Eye Community Event Center 110 12th Ave NE Sleepy Eye, MN Tuesday, January 9, 2024 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	10 9 am-Women's Bible Study 1 pm Ross Park 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Trinity Church School 7 pm Confirmation Service Project	11 7 am-Men's Bible Study	12	13
14 8:15 am Trinity Choir 9 am- Worship~ 10 am Fellowship Hour	15 9 am Quilting 	16 6:30 pm AA	17 9 am-Women's Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Trinity Church School 7 pm Confirmation 7 pm Stewardship	18 7 am-Men's Bible Study	19	20 Tidings Articles Due!
21 8:15 am Trinity Choir 9 am- Holy Communion 10 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Breaking Bread Together	22 9 am Quilting	23 6:30 pm AA	24 9 am-Women's Bible Study 1 pm Ross Park 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Trinity Church School 7 pm Confirmation	25 7 am-Men's Bible Study	26	27
28 8:15 am Trinity Choir 9 am- Worship Congregational Meeting 10 am Fellowship Hour 	29 9 am Quilting	30 6:30 pm AA	31 9 am-Women's Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Trinity Church School 7 pm Confirmation			

December 31, 2023

All we enjoy is God's gift to us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.
Wednesday Isaiah 43:16-21 The Lord is doing a new thing
Thursday Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 For everything a season
Friday James 4:13-15 If it is the Lord's will
Saturday Psalm 39:4-7 My hope is in you
Sunday John 1:10-18 The Word became a human being

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God's gift to us is the happiness we get from our food and drink and from the work we do. Ecclesiastes 3:13

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, give us thankful hearts and joyful hope as we begin this new year. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, for a year of many meals we give you praise; in the year to come please bless our days. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you and keep you in the year ahead. May he guide you in every season and every activity. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What were some of your "highs" from 2014? What were some of your "lows?"
- How did you experience God's love and care in the past year?
- What are some of your hopes and prayers for 2015?

DEVOTIONS

Set out 15 tea candles. Light all but one. Ask each household member, in turn, to complete this sentence: *"Thinking back on 2014, I thank God for _____."* After each has shared, extinguish one candle. Continue until all the lit candles have been extinguished. Then light the last candle and say this prayer together:

Lord God, thank you for all the ways you blessed us in 2014. Please fill our hearts and our homes with happiness in the year to come. Amen.

SERVICE

Choose a particular cause or a charity to support as a household in the coming year. Discuss ways in which you can set aside or raise money to support the cause. Develop a plan of action to do so.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Gather items (e.g. award ribbons, vacation brochures, photos) from around your home that carry memories of the past year. Then have each household member write a "letter to God" about their lives over the past year or draw a picture representing the year. Place the letters, pictures and other items into a decorated shoe box, write the year number (2014) on the outside, and seal the box tight with tape. Agree together on how long it will be (e.g. 1, 5 or even 10 years) before the box is opened again. Then put the box away until it is time for its reopening. Pray the following blessing upon the box before putting it away:

Lord God, bless this box filled with good memories of 2014. May these memories inspire hope for a blessed 2015. Amen.

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions





Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyeonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	258
Weekly Confirmation Attendance:	19
Wednesday Church School Attendance:	30
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$31,956.63
December Giving: (\$22,920.Needed)	\$63,877.89
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$272,848.92
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$297,890.00

Thank you for your help in trying to meet our 2023 Budget.



Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year!



This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to Nicole, Krista, Trisha, Mark, Diane, Cindy, Sherry, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Sarah, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.

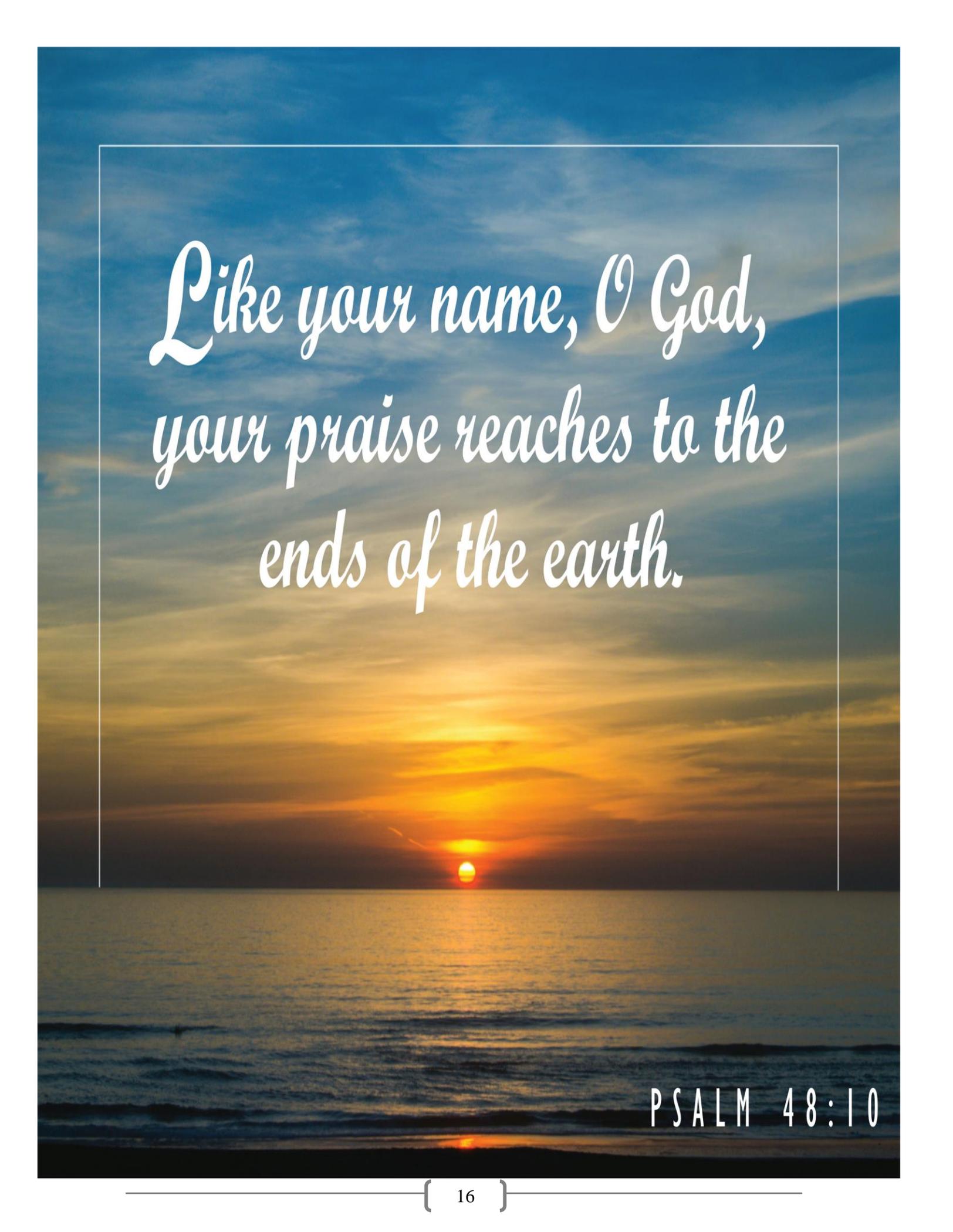
Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for Brady Augustin and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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A sunset over the ocean with a white border around the text.

*Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the
ends of the earth.*

PSALM 48:10