

Trinity Lutheran Church

January 28,
2024

Fourth Sunday
after
Epiphany

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

Website
[www.trinity
sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

Phone:
(507) 794-5051

Email: [trinity@
sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:trinity@sleepyeyetel.net)

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs
9am –3pm

Ministers
Every member

Interim Pastor
Grant Fischer
(320) 444-3517
ogfischer@gmail.com

Parish Secretary
Darlene Brummund
507 276-8013

*Financial
Secretary*
Pat Stevermer
794-7112

*Organist /
Choir Director*
Mary Mulry
794-3768

Custodian
Pat Lowther

THE PEOPLE
WERE AMAZED
AT HIS TEACHING,
BECAUSE HE
TAUGHT THEM
AS ONE WHO
HAD *AUTHORITY.*

MARK 1:22

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SERVICE OF THE WORD

Fourth Sunday after

Epiphany

Sunday, January 28, 2024 9:00 A.M.

“GOD’S RADICAL LOVE, LIVED OUT EVERY DAY”

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES ALL who enter this house of worship! May God bless you as we offer to God our service of worship today. If you are visiting, we pray God’s blessing upon you today as your presence is a blessing to this assembly. Please sign the *Friendship Pad* as it is passed down your row during the time of offering.

WORSHIP AIDS

A NURSERY is located upstairs by the balcony. Though the nursery is not staffed it is available for your use.

ACTIVITY BAGS for young children are on a stand at the rear of church; please return after services. Thanks.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. Please ask the usher.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE: *In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

PARISH NOTICES /RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, † one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

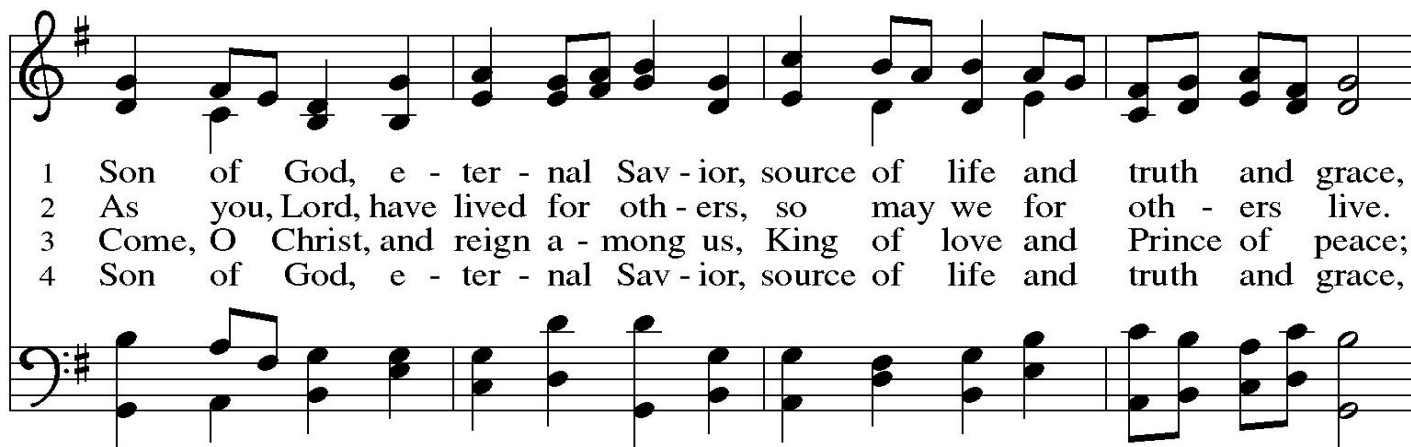
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

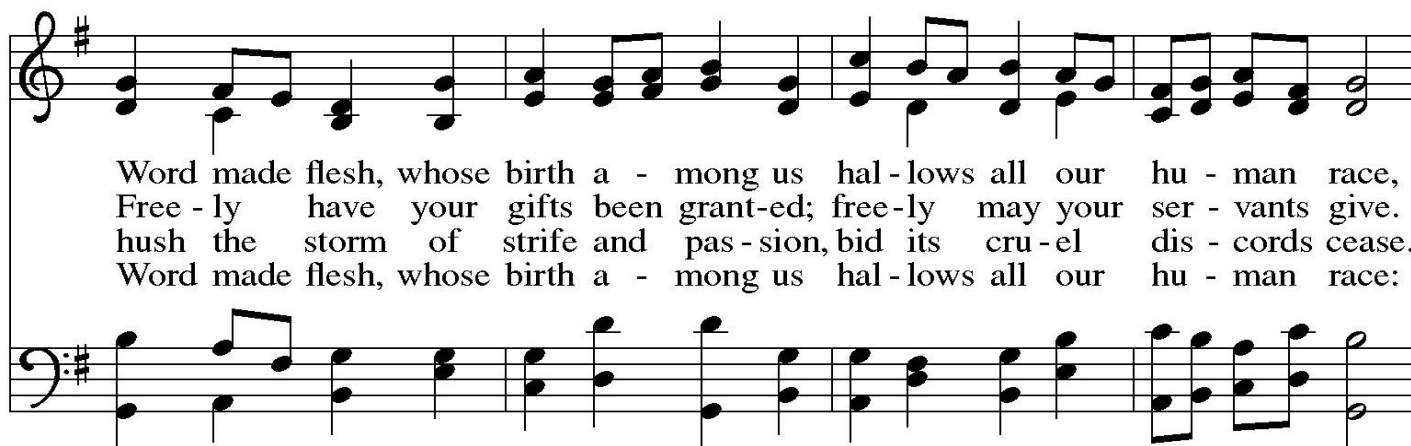
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

CALLING THE ANNUAL MEETING INTO SESSION

As there are many members in one body—**so we, though many, are one body in Christ.**
Where two or three are gathered together in my name—**there I am in the midst of them.**

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, being humble and gentle, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Let us pursue justice and peace, for mutual up-building.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

I now declare this Annual Meeting to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you. **And also with you.**
Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. **Receive our prayer, O God.**
Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christ like ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement. **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve. **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others. **Receive our prayer, O God.**

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world. **Together, we are partners in ministry. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The First Reading is in Deuteronomy chapter 18, verses 15-20. Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The second reading is in 1 Corinthians chapter 8, verses 1-13. Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority. The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Grant Fischer

SONG OF THE DAY

There Is a Balm in Gilead

ELW #614

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



- 1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

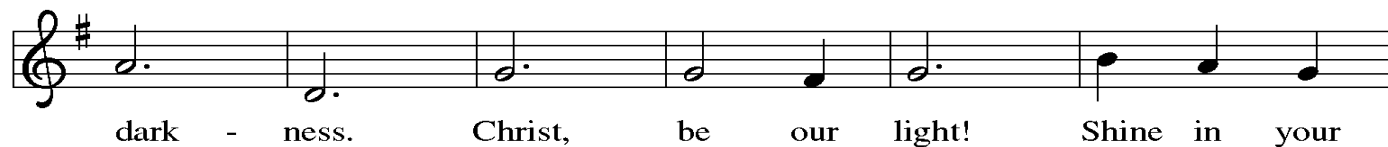
OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Christ Be Our Light

ELW 715



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

LITANY OF PRAYER

As servants of Christ, we plant and support new congregations each year; we enable congregations to renew their ministries; we work with ethnic ministries to develop resources and networks for ministry, and we share resources for God's work.

Together, we are partners in ministry.

As partners in ministry, we pray for and support The Lutheran World Federation's communion of Lutheran churches around the world.

Together, we accompany others in doing God's work.

As people who accompany others, we send more than 200 missionaries to more than 40 countries, training congregation leaders and evangelists to proclaim the kingdom of God.

Together, we equip people to be disciples, evangelists and stewards.

As disciples, we equip God's people to be current and future leaders through our colleges, universities, seminaries and lay schools. We pray for our more than 9,000 rostered leaders. **Together, we are members in the body of Christ.**

As members in the body of Christ, we pray for and support congregations and synods with resources to assist in asset-thinking, planning, operating matters and risk management.

Together, we are stewards of God's gifts.

As stewards, we pray for and engage our culture to work for justice, including dialog about current social, political, environmental and public issues.

Together, we are advocates of God's work for the sake of the world.

As advocates, we pray for common action among other faith communities, seeking unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and our six full communion partners.

Together, we are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in God's grace.

For those poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are persecuted, and those who face anxiety and illness, we pray for **Krista, Nicole, Trisha, Mark, Jan, Diane, Cindy, Sherry, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Ramsey, Sarah, Lennon, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, Mary Jo.** and all who are near us in need, Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all of those blessed in the Lord, who gave their lives for the sake of the gospel and now rejoice in heaven, grant us hope and courage to seek first the kingdom of God, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we are servants in Christ, partners in ministry, people who accompany others, members in the body of Christ, stewards and advocates—our faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. May God, our Father, keep us in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us strength to speak and work for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ANNUAL MEETING PROCEEDS WITH REPORTS –*Anyone in need to depart may do so now.*
(Please refer to the 2024 Annual Report)

ADJOURNMENT

SENDING

BLESSING

God the Father, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace. **Amen.**

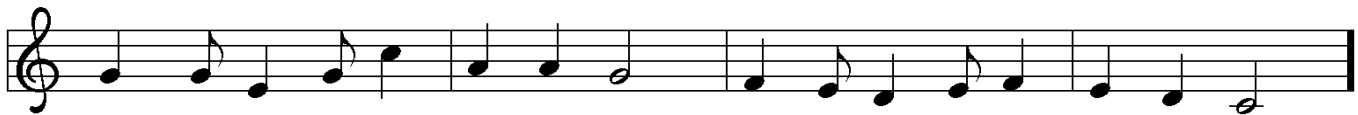


SENDING SONG

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



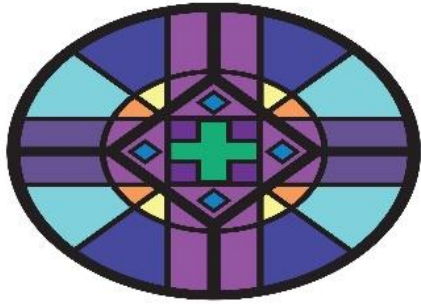
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the hands and feet of Christ someplace else! **Thanks be to God.**

Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ

SUNDAY		9:00 am Worship
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	
Acolyte	Natalie Fulmer	
Readers	Neil Neidt	
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen	
Greeters	Brian & Carol Polesky	
Ushers	Dale & Diane Eckstein	
Altar Guild	Mary Renberg & Sara Sellner	



**Annual Reports available from the ushers.
Please plan on attending as decisions are
made for 2024
What you think matters!**

The following members of Trinity have either volunteered or have been asked to be on the Transition Team that will compile information for the congregations Mission Site Profile. Please keep these people in your prayers as they move forward with this important task: Brian Polesky, Mark Miller, Lee Johnson, Randy Armbruster, Keith Lendt, Ashley Fischer, Sara Sellner, Danielle Havemeier, and Cheryl Neidt.



We're looking for help with the Sound System. If you would like to learn a new skill and help with worship services, please contact Russ Sorensen at 507 227-7693. We need you!

HOT COCOA BAR
FEBRUARY 4TH STUDENTS ARE SINGING IN CHURCH.
PLEASE MEET IN THE LIBRARY AT 8:45.
FOLLOWING SERVICE FAMILIES CAN GATHER IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT FOR A HOT COCOA BAR AND VALENTINES DECORATING (FOR ELDERLY MEMBERS)
HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!

January 28, 2024

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 passage.

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus casts out an evil spirit
Monday	Matthew 7:15-29	Jesus teaches with authority
Tuesday	Matthew 8:28-34	Jesus heals two men with demons
Wednesday	Luke 4:31-37	Jesus' authority over evil spirits
Thursday	John 5:16-27	Jesus' authority to judge
Friday	Acts 16:16-18	Paul casts out an evil spirit
Saturday	Psalms 35:1-10	God is our defender
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people



Fourth Sunday After
EPYPHANY

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

**Every bone in my body will shout: “No one is like the LORD!”
You protect the helpless from those in power; you save the
poor and needy from those who hurt them.”** Psalm 35:10

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week: Lord Jesus, please protect us from evil and teach us your ways. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer: Lord, without your love we'd go unfed. Thank you for our daily bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give: May the Lord Jesus protect you from evil and teach you his ways. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a teacher you liked and respected. What did you learn from them?
- Read Mark 1:21-22. Why do you think people were amazed at Jesus' teachings?
- What do you find amazing about Jesus?
- What do you wish to learn from Jesus?

DEVOTIONS:

Make it a focus of your home prayer time this week to pray for teachers, including those who teach others about Christ in seminaries, schools and churches.

SERVICE:

Think of a teacher you are thankful for. Phone them with a word of encouragement, write them a letter, or send them a card.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

If you have a household member who is a student, share a household time of prayer and blessing. Here is a prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, be with ___ in his/her studies. Keep ___ safe from anything that would harm him/her in body, mind or spirit. Help ___ to gain enjoyment from learning and to learn well. Help ___ to be happy at school and to have good friendships. Help ___ to show your love to others at school and to do what is right. And help ___ to remember that you are with him/her every day, whatever happens; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism:

The Gospel story from Mark shows Jesus' power over evil. In the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Deliver us from evil." This is what Martin Luther wrote about this prayer in his *Small Catechism*

:

"In this prayer we sum up all our prayers. We are asking: 'Father, save us from every kind of evil – anything that could hurt our body or soul, our possessions or reputation. Be with us when we die. Be kind to us and take us from the troubles of this world to be with you in heaven.'"



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.sleepyeyonline.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:	84
Weekly Confirmation Attendance:	21
Wednesday Church School Attendance:	33
Weekly Giving:	\$5861.27
January Giving:	\$14,643.18
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$14,643.18
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$298,000.00

Thank you for meeting 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 **Krista, Nicole, Trisha, Jan, Mark, Diane, Cindy, Sherry, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Ramsey, Sarah, Lennon, 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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