

Trinity Lutheran Church

December 28,
2025

First Sunday
Of Christmas

**217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN**

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ABOVE ALL
THESE *put on love,*
WHICH BINDS EVERYTHING
together in PERFECT *harmony.*

COLOSSIANS 3:14

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday, December 28, 2025



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 and fellowship 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: On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

PRELUDE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

ELW #288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - jice 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!

RESPONSIVE PSALM 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.

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!**





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.



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

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The first reading is in 1 Samuel chapter 2, verses 18–20, 26. Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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

Colossians 3:12-17

The second reading is in Colossians chapter 3, verses 12–17. Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

SONG

Love has Come

ELW #292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Dave Nissen

SONG

*What Child is This***ELW #296**

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!

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



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: respond after Merciful God, receive our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

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

SONG

Jesus, the Light of the World

ACS #914

Musical notation for the first system of the song, including a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef.

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

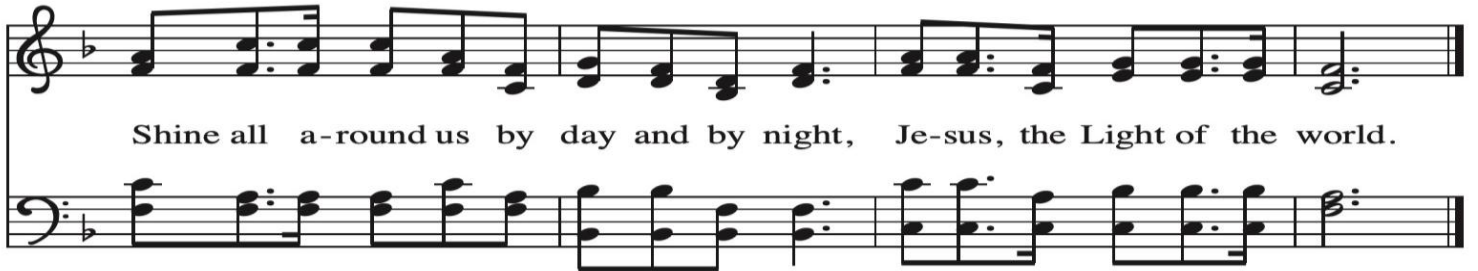
Musical notation for the second system of the song, continuing the melody and bass line from the first system.

“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

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.**

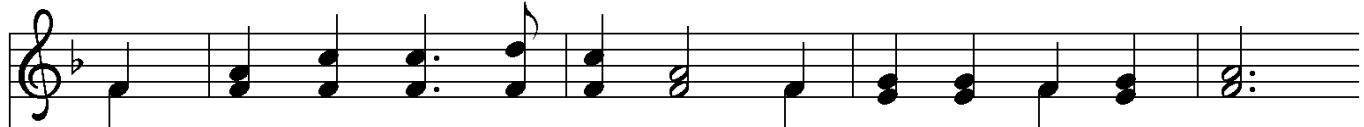


Refrain

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.



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	Lorie Grunzke
Acolyte	Brecken Peterson
Readers	Rose Wall
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner
Greeters	Chris Mangen
Ushers	Dennis Mangen, Mark Miller



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. Thanks also to Thrivent for donating \$250.00 toward our efforts. Together, we raised about \$1500.00 for those in need. Heartfelt thanks for making the 35th year of Trinity's Cookie Walk such a success.

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

There will be NO TREK December 24th or 31st.

Classes resume Jan. 7th at 6:00 pm. See you then!



ALL PERSONS WRITING REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT:

Because we would like to have the Annual Reports available to the congregation before the Annual Meeting, **Sunday January 25th**, it is necessary to have all reports **in the office no later than January 6th**. It would be appreciated if you could submit them to Darlene via email. (secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org)



Thank You.



Thank you to everyone who filled a Christmas Box for our weekend food families. You filled 34 boxes with food to help feed children from our community during the two week Christmas break. Thank you for being the hands of Jesus in Sleepy Eye! Your Social Ministries Board

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.

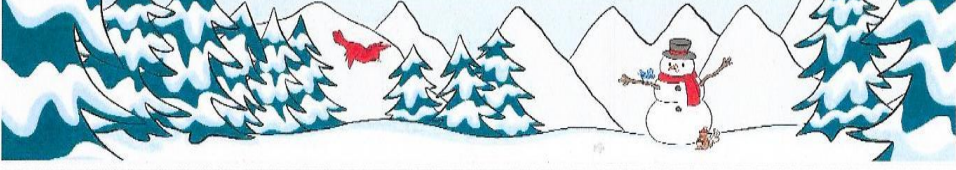




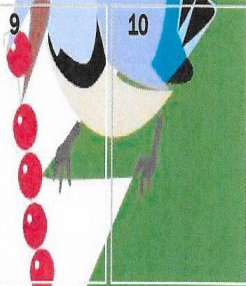
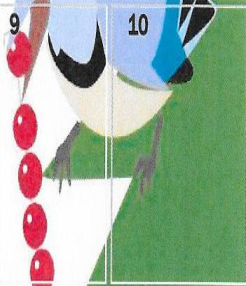











For more information, please contact Joleen Dittbenner or leave your name and number in church office. Thank you.

Envelopes and Statements are in your mailbox. Pick yours up today!



JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  New Year's Day	2 	3 
4 9 am- Holy Communion 10 am Fellowship Hour <i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i> 	5 9 am Quilting	6 6:30 AA Annual Reports Due All Boards	7 9 am-Women's Bible Study 10:15 Evangelism 1 pm Ross Park 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm TREK 7 pm Confirmation	8 8 am-Men's Bible Study	9 	10 
11 9 am- Worship 10 am Fellowship Hour  JESUS'S BAPTISM	12 9 am Quilting	13 6:30 AA	14 9 am-Women's Bible Study 5:15 pm WELCA 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm TREK 7 pm Confirmation	15 8 am-Men's Bible Study	16 	17 
18 <i>Second Sunday after</i> <i>Epiphany</i> 9 am- Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 11 pm Breaking Bread Together	19 9 am Quilting  Martin Luther King Jr. DAY	20 6:30 AA Tidings Articles Due	21 9 am-Women's Bible Study 1 pm Ross Park 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm TREK 7 pm Confirmation	22 8 am-Men's Bible Study	23 	24 
25 9 am- Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>  <i>Annual Meeting</i>	26 9 am Quilting	27 6:30 AA	28 9 am-Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6 pm TREK 7 pm Confirmation	29 8 am-Men's Bible Study	30 	31 



Trinity Lutheran Church – 2025 Building Fund Campaign

"Rooted in Faith" – Preserving Trinity for Generations to Come

Thank you for your faithful support of Trinity Lutheran Church. **We are launching a vital campaign to raise \$75,000 over the next two years to fund capital improvements approved by the congregation—specifically, the removal of the sanctuary’s north and south wall windows and repairs to the parking lot. We are grateful for your past generosity and ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this campaign as well.**

Campaign Summary

- **Goal:** \$75,000
- **Timeline:** Now through the end of calendar year 2025
- **Purpose:** Fund congregation-approved property repairs and upgrades
- **How to Help:** **One-time gifts or pledges over time! The Stewardship Board is asking members for contributions toward the \$75,000 goal via direct payment(s) and/or pledging payments on a schedule of their choice over a two-year period.**

Bridge Financing Options (if required)

1. **Member Loans:** Promissory notes starting at \$5,000, 2% interest, repaid in installments through 2027.
2. **Commercial Financing:** Will be considered only if needed.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support this important campaign. Your ongoing support is a blessing to our church and God’s mission. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

Please return pledge cards to the church office or contact Pat Stevermer with any questions.

Blessings in Christ,
The Stewardship Board

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." — Acts 20:35

December 28, 2025

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.

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	
Monday	John 21:19b-24	
Tuesday	Revelation 21:1-7	
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	Psalms 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
CHECK IT OUT!!**

"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. *Please pick up your statements and envelopes in your mailbox. Thank You!*

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	74
Website	46
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$9407.44
December Giving: (\$23,640.00 .Needed)	\$30,088.37
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$275,384.34



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 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 **Nathan, Nicole, Henry, Dave, Susie, Gary, Jane, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Trish, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Duane, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, 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 family...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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LET THE PEACE
OF CHRIST



RULE IN YOUR HEARTS....

And be thankful.

COLOSSIANS 3:15