

Trinity Lutheran Church

**Dec. 14,
2025**

**Third Sunday
of Advent**

**The Children's
Program**

**217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN**

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

9:00 A.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025



All are welcome as we gather on this Third Sunday in Advent preparing for the Savior's coming. Today we light the "Candle of Joy" on the Advent Wreath reminding us how God comes to those least expected. Likewise, He comes now in the power of Word and Sacrament for us. May the good tidings of God's forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life give us power to be the children of God!

For those visiting today, we pray our service together will be a blessing to you as your presence is a blessing to this gathering!

WORSHIP AIDS

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from an usher.

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

I WISH CARDS are in your pews; please let us know your ideas to improve our Trinity home.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... *A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Our TREK students lead us in a Charlie Brown Christmas: The True Meaning of Christmas. May we receive their message with the hearts of children this Advent season. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us. Great JOY is the tone for this third Sunday in Advent.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our life, our mercy, our might. **Amen.**

As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin...

Silence is kept for reflection.

Great and Holy One,

in this time of waning daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives.

We build ourselves up at the expense of others. We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure. Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay. Come to restore us in your image, remake us into your people, and rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen.

Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God. **Amen.**

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**



THE PROMISE OF JOY

Advent is a time for God’s people to awaken their longings.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.



Today we light three candles. The **first candle** radiates the **hope** given through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to embrace and extend Christ’s **peace** to an unsettled world. The **third candle** extends the promise of **joy** to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true **joy** that sustains a weary people.

Please Join the Choir in singing:

Where the Promise Shines

Words by SYLVIA G. DUNSTAN
Music by BOB MOORE

Congregation:

Lead us on, lead us on to a morn - ing where the
prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on
to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

WELCOME!

This morning we enter a story many of us have carried since childhood—a simple, honest tale where Charlie Brown and his friends search for something real beneath all the noise of the season. As our children bring this beloved story to life, we’re reminded that even when things feel scattered or imperfect, God’s message still breaks through: that the true meaning of Christmas is found not in the decorations or the busy plans, but in the gift of Jesus—God’s love coming close to us.

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As you watch and listen today, I invite you to hear that message again with fresh ears. Through the children's voices, the familiar Scripture, and the gentle humor of the Peanuts story, may you sense the same reassurance Charlie Brown discovered—that God meets us exactly where we are and fills even the simplest moments with grace. With that hope in our hearts, let us rise and all sing “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**A Charlie Brown Christmas:
The True Meaning of Christmas
By Our TREK Students**



“Christmas Time Is Here”

All TREK Children

The Rehearsal

“Tell Me the Story”

Pre-K through 2nd Grade

The Tree Lot

“Little Drummer Boy”

3rd through 6th Grade

The Message

“Prince of Peace”

**Aaliyah Fuchs, Evain Pool,
Yendi Trevino, Karmela
Voigt, Kaitlyn Zeigenhagen**

The Tree Comes Alive

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Candlelight & Closing

“Silent Night”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

As we finish singing "*Joy to the World*," we remember the joy that first broke into the world on that holy night in Bethlehem. In our Peanuts Christmas story this morning, Charlie Brown searches for what Christmas is really all about—and Scripture answers him with the same truth that anchors us now: that Christ has come, and His light shines for all people.

With that promise in our hearts, let us turn to God in prayer, lifting up the needs of the world and trusting the One who brings hope into every season.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: respond after Lord, God of grace,



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.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

As we continue in worship, we turn to the spirit of giving. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the simple tree becomes a reminder that even small offerings can shine with God's love. In that same spirit, we invite you to share your gifts today. Your generosity supports the ministry of this congregation and the ways we share Christ's light in our community. Thank you for being part of this joyful morning.



“Mary, Did You Know?”

Levi Johnson, Kenley Jensen
Maren Sellner

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are You, O God, giver of every good gift. Just as Your Word spoke through Linus in that familiar Peanuts moment—reminding us that Christmas is the story of a Savior born for all people—speak to us again today. Shape our hearts to trust the hope announced in Bethlehem and to share that hope with the world. Receive these offerings, and guide us to use them in ways that reflect Your love—steady, humble, and shining in ordinary moments, just as it did in a manger long ago. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“He Came Down”

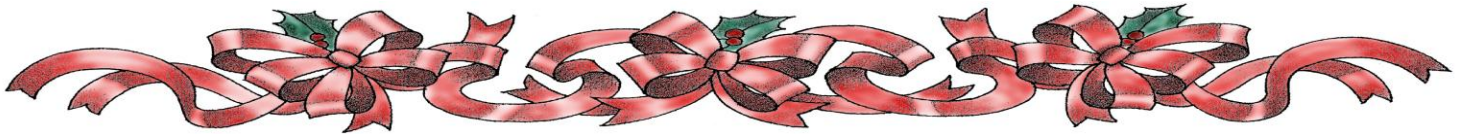
ELW #253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

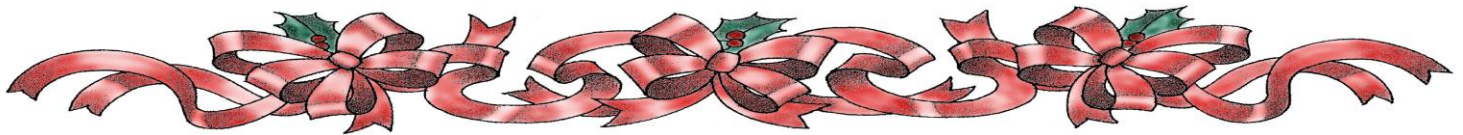
The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and triplets. The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line.

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God. Alleluia



Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ

SUNDAY		9:00 am Worship
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	
Acolyte	Madelynn Mangan	
Sound Tech	Russ Sorensen	
Greeter	Chris Mangan	
Ushers	Dennis Mangan, Mark Miller	
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner	



Glory to God in the Highest



Parents, your children will join you in the pew after their last song. After the service and Cookie Walk, please head to their classroom to pick up their coats.

Cast List

- **Charlie Brown: Declan Johnson**
- **Snoopy: Oliver Sellner**
- **Lucy: Aaliyah Fuchs**
- **Linus: Brandon Hardin**
- **Sally: Josie Heiderscheidt**
- **Narrator 1: Karmela Voigt**
- **Narrator 2: Kaitlyn Ziegenhagen**
- **Narrator 3: Grace Bersal**
- **Marcy: Evain Pool**
- **Peppermint Patty: Hadlee Hansen**
- **Schroeder: Brinley Peterson**
- **Violet: Harley Deree**
- **Woodstock: Yendi Trevino**

Thank you to the TREK Kids for bringing us this inspiring message in word and song.

Thank you to directors Alyssa Nissen and George Hirschboeck and all the teachers, parents, and volunteers who have made this possible.





Holiday Bake Sale

The Trinity Women of the ELCA

Invite everyone to attend our 35th Annual

Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 14th

10:00 ~ 11:00

Following the Christmas Program

Held at

Trinity Lutheran Church

217 Brackenridge SW, Sleepy Eye

Proceeds Will Go To People In Need

Supplemental Funds Provided By Thrivent Action Team

In the last 35 years we have raised over \$45,500.00 to help those in need in our area. That's a lot of Christmas goodies coming from your Trinity kitchens! Thank you and let's continue doing this wonderful work together!

December 14th Christmas Hymn Sing

5:30PM - light supper to follow
Join us in celebrating the season in song!

This event has been cancelled.

Silent Night



IT'S TIME FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Thank you to all you contributed a Christmas Food Box. Together we make a difference!

MEALS THAT MATTER

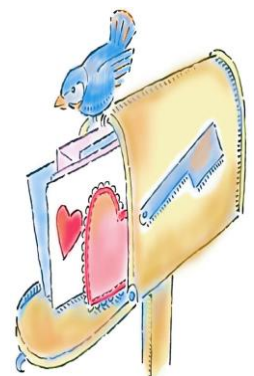
The delicious meals are available in the freezer located in room 109 just off the dining room and we now need your help. The meals are to be given to people who are experiencing some sort of life changing event, be it a new baby, illness, a death in the family, or anyone you think would benefit from a tasty, readymade dinner. Remember, you are the hands of Jesus in our world.

Thank you for being the hands of Jesus!



Thank you to everyone who shared our Trinity Progressive Christmas Gathering. It was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship. Your hosts say thanks so much for a lovely day. May we all enjoy and prepare our hearts for this Advent season.

Mailbox update – the mailboxes in the narthex have been updated and possibly moved. They now include members, friends of Trinity, TREK families and confirmation families. Please check them out (in alphabetical order) and take 11 month statements of giving and 2026 offering envelopes. Offering envelopes – Giving units have been provided a packet of envelopes for 2026. Many that use the Simply Giving or provide a one time gift for tithes and offerings may not use their packet and can return them to the church office. That will help determine how many packets would need to be ordered for 2027. Thank you so much.



Advent is a season of hope.



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	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	A messenger is promised
Tuesday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The Lord's anointed one
Wednesday	Matthew 9:27-31	The blind receive sight
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-7	The lame walk
Friday	Luke 1:5-25	The birth of John announced
Saturday	Psalm 146:5-10	God lifts up those bowed down
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	Immanuel – God with us

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

James 5:8

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, give us joy as we wait for you with sure hope.

Mealtime Prayer:

We praise you, O God, for you are good and faithful. You meet our needs of body and soul. In you, we place our hope. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

God is coming to save you. May the gift of hope calm your fears and give you a brave heart. Amen. (Isaiah 35:4)

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Are you a patient and hopeful person? In what ways are you impatient?
- The apostle James encourages us to be patient until the Lord’s coming and to not lose hope (James 5:7-10). What things cause people to feel hopeless?
- What helps us keep hope in the Lord?

DEVOTIONS

In the third week of Advent, light the first three Advent candles.

Say: This is the third week of Advent. We light our third candle as a sign of the hope we have in Jesus. Jesus came to bring us hope, and we are looking forward to his coming again with patience and faith. (The candles are lit.)

Read: Read one of the following passages: Psalm 52:9, Psalm 130:7, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 12:18-21, Romans 15:12, 2 Corinthians 1:10, Hebrews 10:23.

Pray: Let us pray: God, in this time of preparation for Christmas, gives us new hope. Increase our faith in your Son, Jesus, and our trust in your promises. Amen.

SERVICE

As you arrange gifts for one another, prepare a Christmas gift of non-perishable food items to donate to a local charity for a needy individual or household in your community. You may include a Christmas craft item or a signed card from your household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place figures from a nativity scene in different parts of your house. Each day, have household members move them closer towards the manger scene, so that they arrive on the day before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, place the baby Jesus figure into the nativity scene.

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

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	128
Website	62
Bible Studies Attendance:	8
TREK	57
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$12,086.30
December Giving: (\$23,640.00 .Needed)	\$12,086.30
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$257,372.27

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 **Faye, Susie, Jane, Krista, Trisha, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Kenneth, Joan, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Trish, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Vivian, 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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Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year. Please consider naming Trinity for your Choice Funds. Call 800-847-4836 and have your ID Number available



A Season
for
Sharing