

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**Dec. 15,
2024**

**Third Sunday
in Advent**

**Children's
Program**

**217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN**

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

Phone:
(507) 794-5051

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs
10am –3pm

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Secretary*

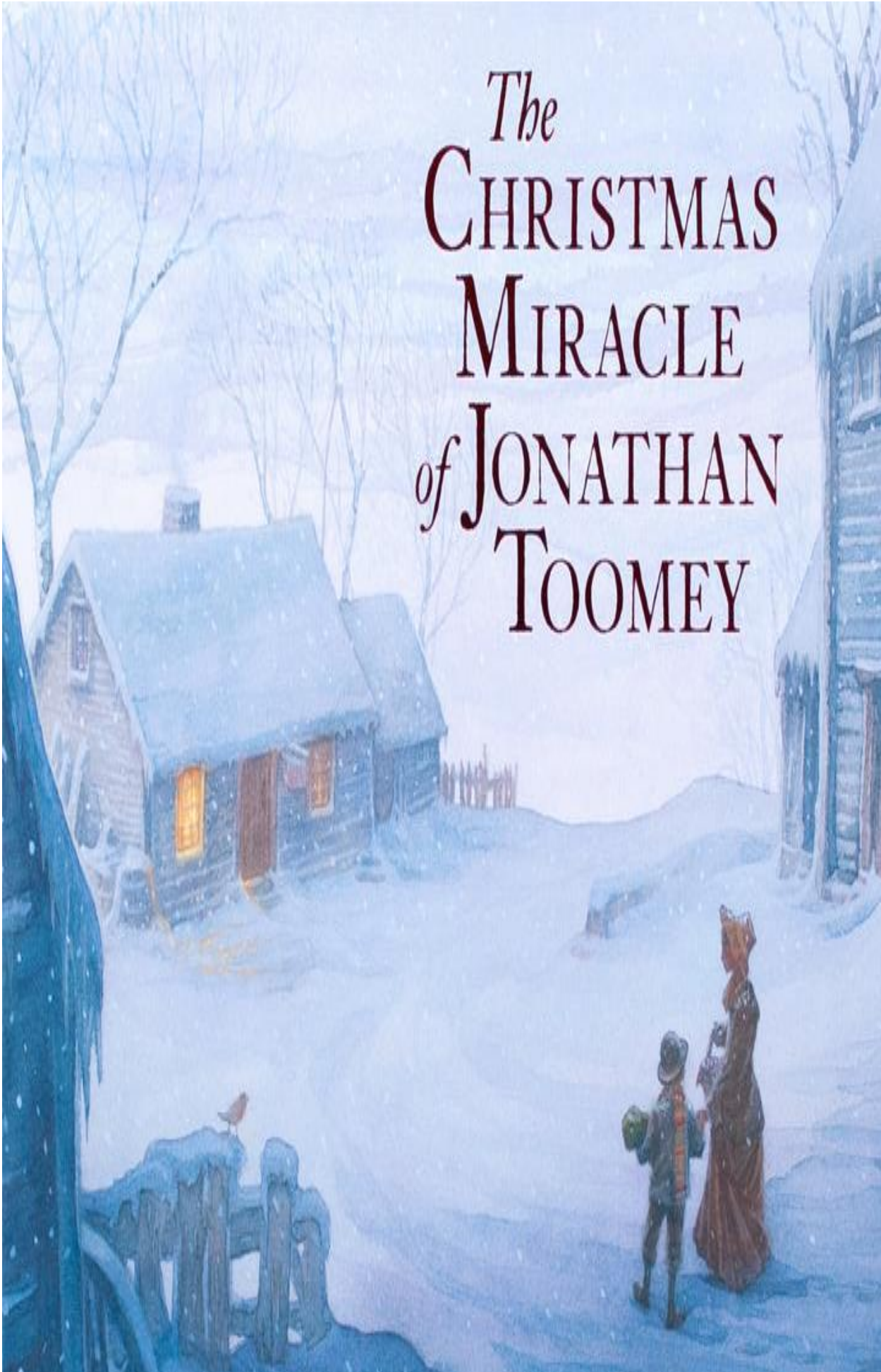
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The
**CHRISTMAS
MIRACLE
of JONATHAN
TOOMEY**



Pastor's Welcome

Good morning and welcome to worship. Our worship will be out of the ordinary today as we have a special Christmas play. Thank you to all our actors, directors, organizers, and all who made this possible. Before we begin, I'd like to remind everyone of a few important announcements.

Now, let us open our hearts to the story and the message of hope that Christmas brings. Please join us in singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful."



Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

All

1
3
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:

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!



Welcome

Jonathan Toomey's Workshop



Carving Mary and the Angel, Nativity Story



*"Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you!"*

Song: "Silent Night"

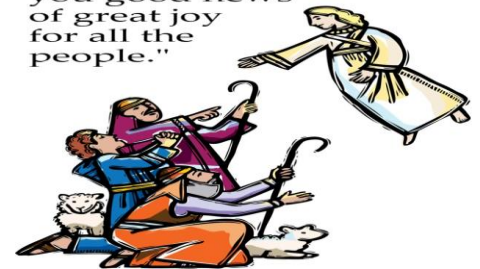
The Church School Students

Carving Joseph, Nativity Story



Carving the Shepherds, Nativity Story

*"I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people."*



Song: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

The Church School Students

Carving Baby Jesus, Nativity Story



Song: "Away in a Manger"

The Church School Students

The Nativity Set Complete



Pastor: And just as Jonathan Toomey completed the nativity set, his heart was also transformed. This Christmas, may we remember that the true gift is not what we create with our hands, but what we share with our hearts—the love of Jesus Christ, who was born to bring light to the world.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

All

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!"

Pastor: Thank you to all of our wonderful students for sharing this beautiful story with us today. Through their hard work and dedication, they've helped remind us of the true meaning of Christmas—the gift of Jesus Christ. We are so proud of them, and we thank you all for being here to celebrate with us.

Let us join together in the prayers of intercession, lifting up our hearts in prayer for the needs of our community and the world.

Prayers of intercession Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us share the peace with one another.

Offering

Pastor: Now, we invite you to continue the spirit of giving as we take up our offering. Your generosity supports the ministry of this church and the work we do in our community. Thank you for your kindness and for being part of this special morning.



*Special
Music*

It's Not That Far to Bethlehem

Levi Johnson

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift in your creation. Just as You worked through Jonathan Toomey's hands to shape the nativity figures, we ask that you shape our hearts to reflect the love, hope, and peace found in the story of Jesus' birth. By these gifts we offer, and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, sharing the light of Christ, born in the manger to bring hope to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

“PEACE BE WITHIN YOU.”



Psalm 122:8



Song

Joy to the World

All

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
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
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
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,



Dismissal Go in peace, like the shepherds who spread the good news, and like Jonathan Toomey, whose heart was transformed by the story of Christ's birth. Serve the Lord with love, sharing the light and hope that began in the manger. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

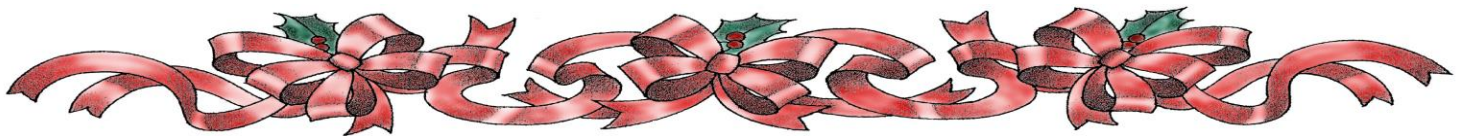
Thank you to our prelude players for their special music. Henry Stevermer, Karmela Voigt, Anders & Trygve Coulson.

Cast List

- **Jonathan Toomey:** Declan Johnson
- **Mrs. McDowell:** Josie Heiderscheidt
- **Thomas:** Brandon Hardin
- **Narrator 1:** Miles Krzmarzick
- **Narrator 2:** Trygve Coulson
- **Narrator 3:** Karmela Voigt
- **Narrator 4:** Oliver Sellner
- **Mary:** Madelyn Jensen
- **Joseph:** Kyson Christensen
- **Angels:** Hadlee Hansen & Evain Pool
- **Shepherds:** Keaton Evers & Lennon Braulick

Thank you to the Trinity Lutheran Church School and Pastor Dave for bringing us this inspiring message in word and song.

Thank you to directors Nora Coulson and George Hirschboeck, assistant director Megan Sellner, and church school coordinator Jamie Heiderscheidt, and all the teachers, parents, and volunteers who have made this possible.



OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE THE BODY OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 9:00am Worship	
Accompanist	Mary Mulry
Acolyte	Graysen Evers
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen
Greeters	Keith & Sarah Lentt
Ushers	Mark Miller & Mike Petersen
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner





Holiday Bake Sale

The Trinity Women of the ELCA

Invite everyone to attend our 34th Annual

Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 15th

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



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Financial needs of the Church update

Gods work with our hands is possible through the generosity of our faithful givers – thank you! Many exciting things are happening at Trinity; below we provide a broad overview of TLC's financial condition, ongoing needs and additional giving opportunities to help our mission be realized!

- **'24 Budget:** For December we need nearly \$69,000 to meet our \$298,000.00 budget, the total budget has been nearly unchanged for the prior two years.
 - December '23 you rallied and gave **\$89,000.00** which helped to improve our financial position, it would be great if we could do that this year which would also give us a good start on our '25 needs!
- **'25 Budget:** Budgeting process for '25 is underway. As indicated, our budget has changed little in the last three years, however we project increases will be required & will place the budget in a range of +/- \$315,000 (exact amount TBD). Some increases resulting from:
 - Our new fulltime Pastor
 - Property and liability insurance premiums.
 - Monthly utilities
 - Other misc. expenditures that were held in check the last several years.
 - **Please consider the challenge of increasing your giving by 5-10% to help support the work of God through renewed excitement growing in our Congregation!**
- **Building projects:** Several necessary building improvement projects are underway.
 - Electrical panel replacement, pedestrian ramp reconstruction, and possible other projects that are being discussed.
 - Member loan balance of \$10,000.00 plus interest obligation remains resulting from '22 building improvements.
 - Current available approximate building fund balance: \$25,000.00
 - **Additional information forth coming regarding projects noted above and the required amount of fundraising needed. Until then, please consider contributions to the building fund.**

Additional information will be forthcoming in the near future regarding all the topics above. Thanks again to our generous members!

Stewardship Bd.

DECEMBER 15, 2024

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING: PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.

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 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
Monday	Luke 13:1-9	Jesus calls for repentance
Tuesday	Acts 2:1, 36-41	Peter calls for repentance
Wednesday	Acts 13:16-31, 38-39	Paul preaches about John
Thursday	Acts 17:22-31	Paul speaks of repentance
Friday	John 15:1-8	Producing fruit in Christ
Saturday	Psalm 1	The fruit of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth



CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What makes you anxious? Share about a recent worry of yours.
- Read Philippians 4:6-7. What do these verses say we should do when we feel worried?
- The apostle Paul said that “the Lord is near.” How can knowing that Jesus is near help us in times of worry?

DEVOTIONS

Use this simple liturgy for lighting your third Advent candle this week:

Leader: The prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would be the Prince of Peace. Our third Advent candle is the candle of peace. As we light it, let us celebrate the peace that Jesus gives us. (Light three candles.)

All: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for giving us peace. Fill our home with peace this Christmas. Amen.

SERVICE

Make the gift of service one of your Christmas gifts this year. Talk together about acts of love and charity that could be offered to different household members, such as doing the dishes, making a bed, helping prepare a meal, giving a massage, gardening. Have each person select an act of service they could offer to each household member (these need not be the same). Write them down on index cards and collate booklets of redeemable “service vouchers” to give to household members at Christmas time.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Set aside time during this week to read together one or two favorite Christmas-related stories, share past Christmas memories, and sing Christmas carols. Sit around your meal table or Christmas tree, light a candle, and play soft Christmas music in the background. You might also enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and some edible Christmas treats.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God’s peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week: Lord Jesus, bless us with the Holy Spirit. Make our hearts burn with love for you. Amen. (Luke 3:16)

Mealtime Prayer: Lord Jesus, bless our home with peace this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming again. Amen.

A Blessing to Give: May the Lord Jesus watch over your heart and your mind and give you his peace. Amen.

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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Please take your Bulletin Home



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:	98
Church School & Confirmation	67
Website	33
Bible Studies Attendance:	9+6+6 =21
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$14,293.28
December Giving: (\$28,650.00 .Needed)	\$19,765.28
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$248,472.65
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$275,094.00

We need everyone's help to meet our Budget!

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 **Mary, Kelsey, Sheila, Linda, Jerry, Grazie, Sandy, Larry, Krista, Sherry, Kali, Jane, Ramsey, Sarah, Molly, Patricia, Nancy, Lennon, Chris, Julie, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, John, Lois, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, 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.... Especially Sheila and Jackie Nessett in the loss of their husband and father, **Greg** and the family and friends of **Sharon "Bootsie" Remus**....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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