Trinity Lutheran Church

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

217 Brackenridge Southwest Sleepy Eye, MN

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Phone: (507) 794-5051

Office Hours Mon-Thurs 10am –3pm

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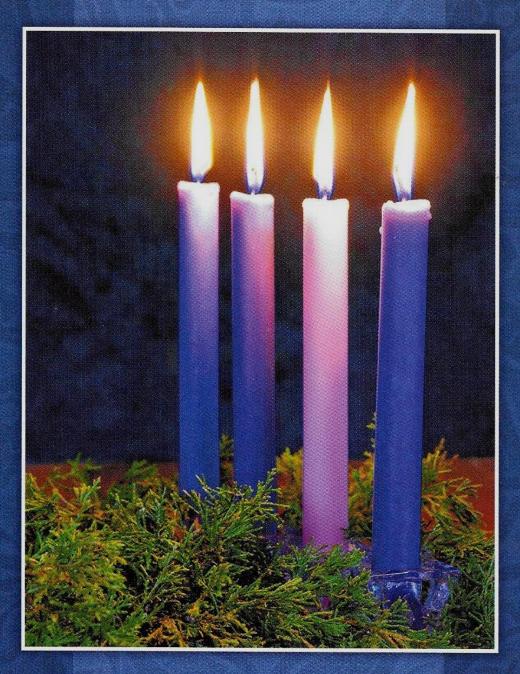
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LOVE



But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...
from you shall come...
one who is to rule in Tsrael

HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 A.M. ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2021



God bless you as we gather on this 4th Sunday in Advent. The 4th candle on the Advent wreath is often called the "Candle of Love." It symbolizes the angel Gabriel's visitation to Mary. Like Mary, we pray God would open our hearts—so that we may receive Him who comes in the promise of the Lord filling us with good news of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life.

We welcome all visitors and pray our worship together brings you a special blessing as Christ extends his invitation to all as we receive the presence of Christ's body and blood through the bread and cup. If you are worshipping in person and unvaccinated, thanks for keeping your mask on over your nose and mouth all the time you are in the building. You help protect us all. Please come and join in fellowship & refreshments immediately following in the Library.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRELUDE /BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

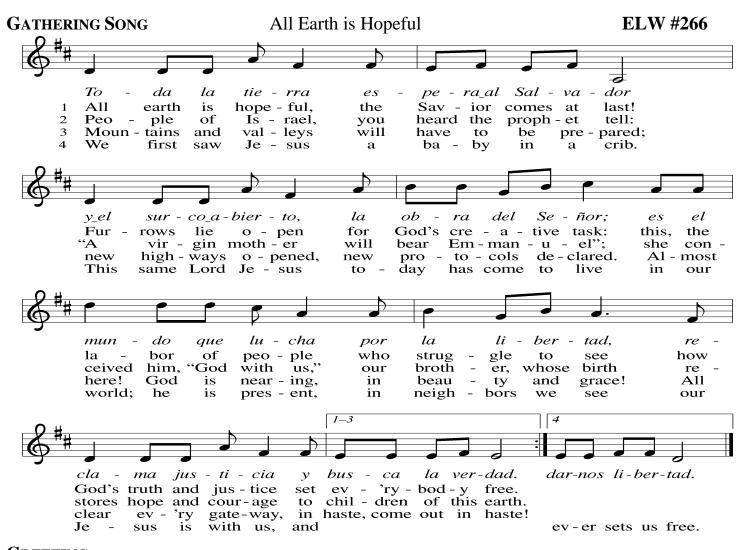
Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time.

we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In \pm Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**





GREETING

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

THE PROMISE OF LOVE

Advent is the time for God's people to awaken their longings.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. When we longed for the silence to be broken,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness, God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.



Today we light four candles. The **first candle** is the *light of hope* granting strength to the weary. The **second candle** is the *light of peace* that surpasses our understanding. The **third candle** is the *light of joy* that touches the depths of our soul. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the *light of God's love* poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Please Join the Choir in "Where the Promise Shines":



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



WORD

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

The first reading is in Micah chapter 5, verses 2-5a.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

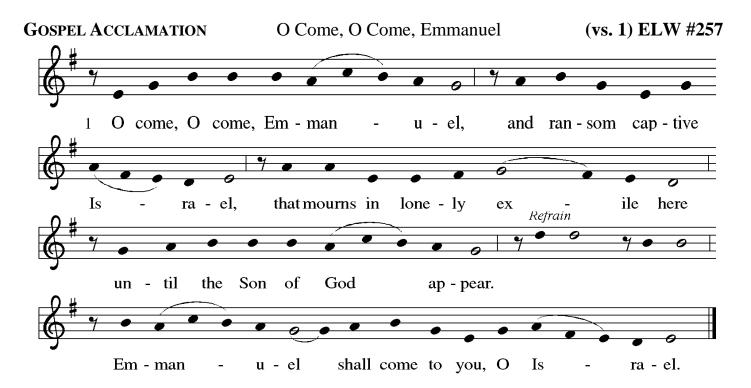
The second reading is in Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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



GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

The Hely Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter. Glory to you. O Lord

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 1:44, NRSV



And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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



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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.



Bring Us Hope

Trinity Choir

MEAL

THE WORDS OF INSTITUION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

Come, eat, drink, and live the life God has for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

(THE USHERS BRING UP THE OFFERING)

PRAYER OF THANKS

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Our thanks to all who serve the Body of Christ

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship	
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	
Acolyte	Jacob Mellen	
Communion Assistants	Harold & Bonnie Pettis, Larry Baumgardt	
Reader	Neil Neidt	
Sound Tech	Russ Sorensen	
Greeters	Karen Voge & Sarah Lendt	
Ushers	Eric & Lee Wahlborg	
Altar Guild	Mary Hillmer & Joleen Dittbenner	



Thank you Trinity Family!

Great thanks to all who have worked to make this Advent season a blessing for our community. If you helped with the Children's Christmas Worship, baked or bought Cookies, watched or participated in the Live Nativity, packed a Holiday box, or cooked for Meals that Matter....thank you. It all works together to do God's work in our world. May we all continue to work together in the future as we help as we can this Holiday season and always. Together we can make a difference-we do make a difference.

ADVENT CALENDARS & DEVOTIONALS are available to each family at the tables in the entrances. Please pick them up as we celebrate with anticipation the season of Advent.



WE ARE COOKING TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP! Prepared frozen meals are in the freezer for you to deliver to a friend or neighbor who have had a life changing event- illness, birth of a baby, death in the family, etc... *Be the hands of Jesus!*

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



WE ARE SELLING COFFEE AT A REDUCED PRICE AS

MARKED. The coffee is packaged in vacuum sealed bags, so even if it is past the expiration date it still is good. Because we never have sold the coffee for much of a mark-up, all the prices are less than we paid for the coffee. Everyone who buys the coffee will be getting the coffee for less than we paid for it.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR 10 hours a week/competitive salary/flexible hours Core Responsibilities Include: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Confirmation Trinity Lutheran Church of Sleepy Eye is seeking a person who is called to impact lives as our Christian Education Director by partnering with families and their children as they seek to fulfill baptismal promises. The work of this position is accomplished by coordinating the recruitment and training of lay leadership, teachers and other volunteers. The Christian Education Director will work with, be guided by, and be accountable to the Christian Education Board to provide engaging, faith-nurturing opportunities. For full job description and more information, email: education@trinitysleepyeye.org

CUSTODIAN NEEDED! We thank Alex for his years as an excellent custodian here at Trinity. There is now an opening for this position. The hours are about 6 per week. If you are interested, please contact the office for information.



My soul rejoices in God my Savior.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth
Monday	Luke 1:56-80	The birth of John the Baptist
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38	An angel visits Mary
Wednesday	Matthew 1:18-25	An angel visits Joseph
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	To us a child is born

Friday Saturday John 1:1-14 The Word became flesh Sunday Luke 2:41-52 The boy Jesus at the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Luke 2:1-20



With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. He cares for me, his humble servant. Luke 1:46-48

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, child of Bethlehem, come and be King in our hearts and home. Amen. (Micah 5:2)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless our home with love this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming. Amen.

The birth of Jesus

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you strength and courage. May God's face smile upon you and God's kindness save you. Amen. (Psalm 80:3)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

What is a piece of good news you remembering receiving? How did you react?

How did Elizabeth respond to Mary's arrival from Nazareth? (Luke 1:39-45)

In what ways is Jesus' birth good news for you? What will be your response this Christmas?

DEVOTIONS

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

Leader: In John 3:16, we read that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Our fourth Advent candle is the candle of love. As we light it, let us cele-brate the love that Jesus shows us. (Light all four candles on your Advent Wreath.)

All: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much. Fill our home with love this Christ-mas. Amen.

SERVICE

Is there room for more at your meal table this Christmas? Be on the lookout for some-one who may be without friends or family at this festive time, and invite them to join you, either on Christmas Day or the days after. Students, single adults, recent immi-grants, widows, widowers, and elderly persons can feel particularly lonely at Christmas time.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On Christmas Eve or Day use a manger scene you have or build a simple one and tell the story of Jesus' birth using the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20. You can also have people play the role of the different characters in the story (including the animals) and act out the Christmas story.

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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 devotion



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 <u>secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org</u> or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message. TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at <u>secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org</u> 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 Giving: \$7312.82 December Giving \$14,435.55 Yearly Contributions to Date \$255,167.39

We are \$42,066.00 below budget. Your help is needed.

This Week's Prayer Concerns

<u>Pray for the Church</u>...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...

<u>Pray for our World</u>...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...

<u>Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...</u>that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to Beth, Norman, Sue, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Abby, Emma, Ed, Story, Tina, Tammy, Ethan, Robyn, Beth, Carmen, Julia Ann, Nathan, Linette, Tammy, John, Sandy, Tony, Ted, Connor, Sue, Ed, Kimora, and Mary Jo.

<u>Pray for the beloved...</u> 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....

<u>Pray for all families</u>...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...

<u>Pray for those preparing for marriage and those newly</u> <u>married</u>...that God would be glorified in their union, filling every couple with the light and truth of God's grace and power throughout their lives ...

<u>Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces</u> <u>and those far from home</u>...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife (Donna Augustin's son stationed in Italy)...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

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

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I am giving permission for free use of any of my hymns to churches during the pandemic, knowing that many churches are struggling right now with their budgets. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette





Thank you to the following donors for sharing God's beauty with us in the form of a poinsettia.

Feel free to take your plant home any time after the 6:00 Christmas Eve service has concluded. Many Thanks!

- The Turbes family in memory of Matthew Turbes
- Cheryl and Neil Neidt in honor of their family
- Dave and Mardy Vosbeck in memory of our parents
- Jay Sellner in memory of Brandy Sellner
- Larry and Diane Evers in honor of their family
- Craig and Joleen Dittbenner and family in memory of Sidney Dittbenner
- Craig and Joleen Dittbenner and family in memory of Marian and Lester Johnson
- Craig and Joleen Dittbenner and family in memory of many loved ones
- Shawna Sellner and family in memory of Stan Turbes
- Rita Wersal and family in memory of Marty Neid
- Doug Domeier in memory of LaDonna and Vernard Domeier
- Randy and Roxanne Armbruster in memory of Jan Armbruster
- The Jean Bloemke family in memory of Craig Bloemke
- Michal and Pat Lowther in honor of our family
- Dean and Sandy Brinkman in memory of Ed Polesky
- Brian and Carol Polesky and family in memory of Ed Polesky and Betty Riley
- The Brinkman & Polesky families in memory of Bill Vogler
- The Voge family in memory of Russ Voge
- Floyd Stenger in memory of Deb Stenger
- Ramona Kirchner in memory of her children,

Terry Kirchner, Carmen Halverson, and Heidi Ibberson

- # Harold Thiessen and Donna Augustin in memory of Marian Thiessen
- Sandy & Dean Brinkman in memory of David Brinkman
- The Ibberson families in memory of William and Colleen Ibberson
- Lee and Judy Johnson in memory of our parents
- Lee and Judy Johnson in honor of our family
- Rod and Darlene Brummund in memory of Don and Donna Marcott,

Alan Justen, Albert, Herbert and Esther Brummund

Rod and Darlene Brummund in honor of our children Katrina, Andrea, and John,

grandchildren Ariella and Andy Great-grandson Marcus

