

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**December 24,
2023**

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

Website
Trinitysleepyeye.org

Phone:
(507) 794-5051
Fax:(507)794-5052

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
Parsonage
794-5641

Parish Secretary
Darlene Brummund
507 276-8013

*Financial
Secretary*
Pat Stevermer
794-7112

*Organist /
Choir Director*
Mary Mulry
794-3768

Custodian
Alex Lazatin

Fourth Sunday of Advent



HOLY COMMUNION ~ SETTING 10

9:00 A.M. ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023



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.

Please come and join in fellowship & refreshments immediately following in the Library.

- *Children yet to be instructed in Communion are invited to receive a personal blessing at the time of Communion.*
- *Fellowship and refreshments are available in the Library following this morning’s service.*

WORSHIP AIDS

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available from the ushers.

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

THANK YOU for signing the Friendship Pad as it’s passed to you during Communion distribution today.

PREFERENCE to receiving grape juice & gluten-free bread is indicated by raising your index finger to the server.

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

GATHERING

WE PREPARE...*God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David’s throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel’s greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, “Count me in.” We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, “Count us in.”*

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 † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

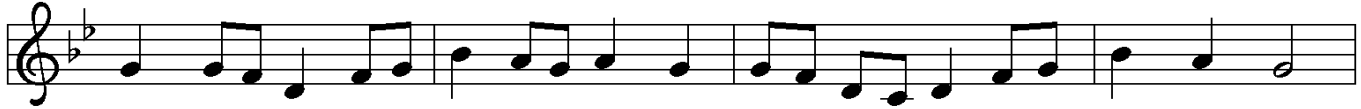
GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

ELW #254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34)

And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth, My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. (Luke 1:46-49)

We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.



We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

Light the four candles of the Advent wreath.



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM~ LUKE 1:46B-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
 the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

WORD

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GOSPEL**Luke 1:26-38**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

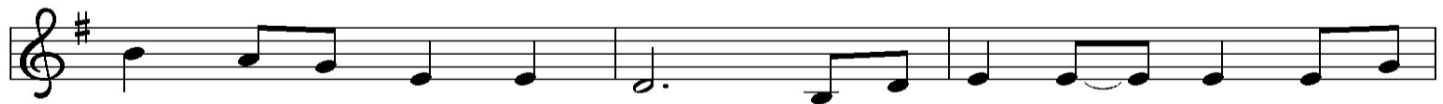
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Pastor Grant Fischer

SONG OF THE DAY*Canticle of the Turning***ELW #723**

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

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

MEAL

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

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



PRAYER

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **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.**

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW #267

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

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	5:00 pm Worship
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	Mary Mulry
Acolyte	Michael Pool	Anders Coulson
Readers	Eric Wahlborg	Sandy Beito
Communion Assistants	Mark Miller at the rail	Brian Polesky at the rail
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen	Russ Sorensen
Greeters	Jeff & Lynette Carlson	Mark Beito
Ushers	Eric & Juli Wahlborg	Jon Hansen
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner	

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. Heartfelt thanks for making the 33rd year of Trinity's Cookie Walk such a success.

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



*There will be NO Church School December 27th or January 3rd.
Classes resume Jan. 10th at 6:30 PM. See you then!*

COME JOIN US FOR

OPEN SWIM AT VOGEL

Friday, December 29th 4-7pm

\$5 per person (Trinity will pay the rest!)

Sponsored by the Youth board and Education Board

December 24, 2023

God the Father showed his love for us by giving us Jesus.

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 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song
Tuesday	Luke 1:67-80	Zechariah's song
Wednesday	Luke 2:1-7	The birth of Jesus
Thursday	Luke 2:8-20	Angels appear to shepherds
Friday	Titus 2:11-14	God's grace has appeared
Saturday	Psalm 89:1-8	God's love continues forever
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

**Lord, I will sing about your great love forever. For all time to come,
I will tell how faithful you are.** Psalm 89:1 (NIRV)

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for your wonderful love, wrapped up for us in the gift of Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for your gift of love signified by food, family and friends. Most of all, thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be with you. May God's favor rest on you and his Spirit come to you. Amen. (Luke 1:28-30, 35)

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Can you remember a time when you had an unexpected visitor? Share your story.
- Mary was visited by an angel with the amazing news that she was going to give birth to the Son of God. If you were in Mary's position, how do you think you would have felt?
- Jesus was God's gift of love to the world. Why is Jesus the most special Christmas gift of all?

DEVOTIONS

This week, light all four candles on your home Advent wreath. In doing so, use the following words:

*The fourth candle on our Advent wreath is the **ANGEL CANDLE**. When Jesus was born, the angels announced that our Savior had come. God the Father sent his Son to earth to save us because he loves us.*

Have a household member read John 3:16-17. Then say this prayer together, repeating after the leader:

Lord God, thank you for showing your love to us by sending Jesus our Savior. Fill our hearts and our homes with love this Christmas. Amen.

SERVICE

Plan to visit a person who is homebound or in a nursing home before Christmas Day. Prepare a gift of love to bring to them and sing a Christmas carol with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home. During this week, move them closer to the manger. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men. Last of all, place Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

© 2014 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved. Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow.

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



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 5:00 Christmas Eve service has concluded. Many Thanks!

- ❁ The Alice Mae Hinderman and family in memory of Albert and Randy Johnson
- ❁ Cheryl and Neil Neidt in honor of family members
- ❁ Cindy Kramer Steffl in memory of Shorty, Marge & Larry Kramer, Vicky Topp, Cheryl Vinson and Nicole Fuchs
- ❁ Shirley Cannon in memory of Art Cannon and Mom & Dad
- ❁ Leann, Jeanette, & Lois Zamzow in memory of Oliver & Joyce Zamzow
- ❁ Susie & Wade Pederson in honor of family
- ❁ Pat and Michal Lowther in memory of Elmer & Mavis Anderson and
Myron & Betty Lowther
- ❁ Connie Johnson and family in memory of Howard Johnson
- ❁ Larry and Sherry Baumgardt in honor of our children
- ❁ Diane Evers in honor of our family
- ❁ Grant and Karen Fischer in memory of family
- ❁ The Jean Bloemke family in memory of Craig Bloemke
- ❁ Jay Sellner in memory of Brandy Roberts
- ❁ Brian and Mary Mulry in honor of family
- ❁ Sandy Brinkman, Alex, Deonna, & Carter in memory of Dean Brinkman
- ❁ Sandy Brinkman and family in memory of Ed Polesky, David Brinkman,
Bill Vogeler, and Nicholas Jacques
- ❁ Brian and Carol Polesky and family in memory of Betty and DJ Riley
- ❁ Brian and Carol Polesky and family in memory of Ed Polesky, Dean Brinkman,
Bill Vogeler, and Nicholas Jacques
- ❁ Phyllis Kleven in memory of Ron Kleven
- ❁ Lee and Judy Johnson in memory of our par
- ❁ Rod and Darlene Brummund in memory of Don and Donna Marcott,
Alan Justen, Herbert and Esther
Brummund
- ❁ Rod and Darlene Brummund in honor of our children Katrina, Andrea, and John,
grandchildren Ariella and Andy
great-grandchildren Marcus and Mary

We thank all of those who have graciously shared their talents of special music with us for this Celebration of Christ's birth. Pastor Grant, Darlene, Pat, Mary, and Pat extend their Christmas greetings to you all. May you and your family's Christmas and New Year be richly blessed and filled with God's presence and peace.

