

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**Dec. 18,
2022**

**Fourth Sunday
in Advent**

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

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

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Tues-Thurs
9am –3pm
Friday
9-Noon

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Patrick Lowther

Fourth Sunday of Advent



SERVICE OF THE WORD

9:00 A.M. ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 2022



Christ Welcomes All to this House of Worship! Today we celebrate the Church Year as gather on this Fourth Sunday in Advent in wait of Christ who came, who comes to us, and who is coming again. Today we light the “Candle of Love” on the Advent Wreath reminding us how God comes to those least expected. May the power of the Spirit help us receive Him who brings you good tidings of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life.

We Thank God for Lee Johnson in leading us today, our Congregation, guests & visitors and pray you will receive a special blessing today as we go forth together to love and serve others. May He keep Pastor Tim safe on his travels.

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

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

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... *In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night called the winter solstice, which literally means "standing still." It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter, when the sun is the farthest distance from the earth. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. In the gathering darkness of December, we anticipate the coming again of the Light of the world. It is such hope that marks Advent's waiting and looking toward the coming of Christ. It may be that the “blue” of the Advent season (symbolizing hope) is also the very remedy we need for what makes us feel "blue" during the Christmas celebrations.*

PRELUDE/ PARISH NOTICES/BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
and his mercy endures forever.

They cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his Word and healed them,
and saved them from the grave.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways,
and loving in all his works.

The Lord upholds all who fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Lord sustains them on their sickbed,
and ministers to them in their illness.

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
and his mercy endures forever. 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

PRESENTED BY THE TRINITY CHOIR

THE PROMISE OF LOVE

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

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.

Musical score for 'Where the Promise Shines' by Gloria Gaudenzi, published by GIA Publications, Inc. in 1995. The score is for a congregation and includes three staves of music. The lyrics are: '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.'



BRING US HOPE

THE TRINITY CHOIR

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

God of Mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent Season for ourselves and our families who live with the painful memories of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:1-2, 25-31

The first reading is in Isaiah chapter 40, verses 1-2, 25-31.

"Comfort, comfort my people," says our God. "Encourage the people of Jerusalem and tell them that their time of suffering is ended. With whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One. "Look up to the heavens! Who made the stars, if not the One who leads them out like an army, calling each one by its own name? So mighty is God's power and strength that not one fails to answer. Israel, why then do you complain that our God does not know your troubles or care if you suffer injustice? Our God, the everlasting God, the creator of the farthest parts of the earth, never grows tired or weary. No one can fathom the depths of God's understanding. God gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless. Even youths become exhausted and young ones give up. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles they shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint."

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

PSALM 121

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

My help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

God will not suffer your foot to be moved. The one who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold the one who keeps Israel shall not slumber or sleep.

The holy one is your keeper. The Holy one is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not hurt you by day nor the moon by night.

Our God shall preserve you from all evil and shall preserve your soul.

Our God shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and even for evermore.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(vs. 4) ELW #257

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 1:46-55

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

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

"And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my soul 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."**



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



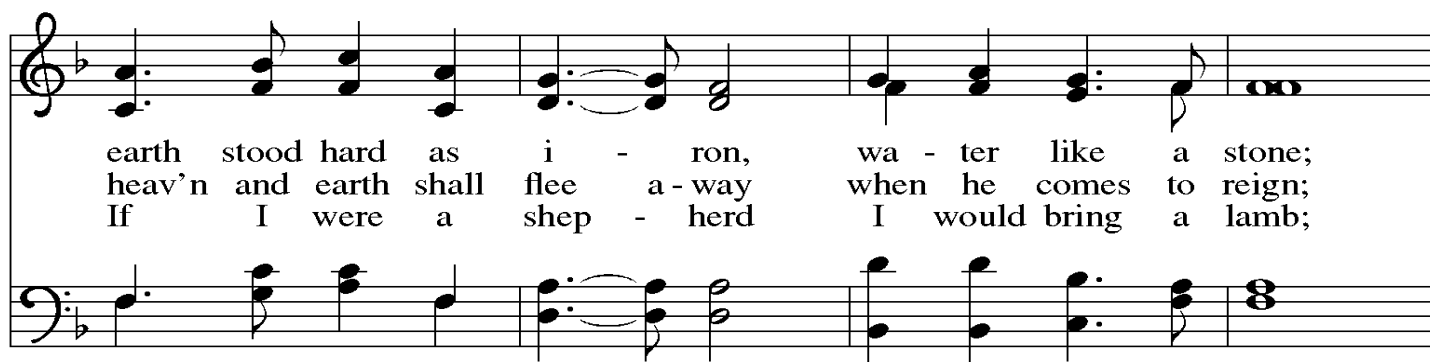
you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!



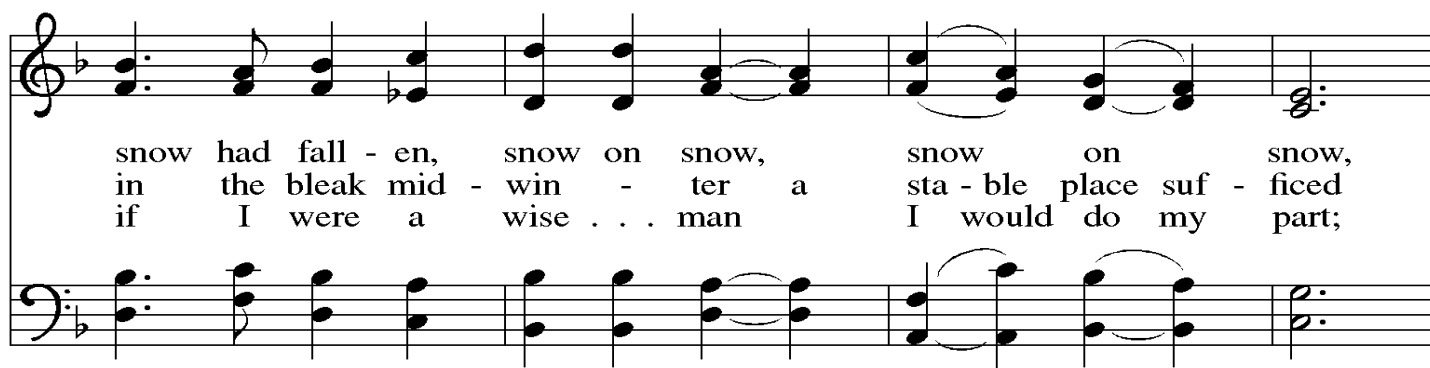
In the Bleak Midwinter



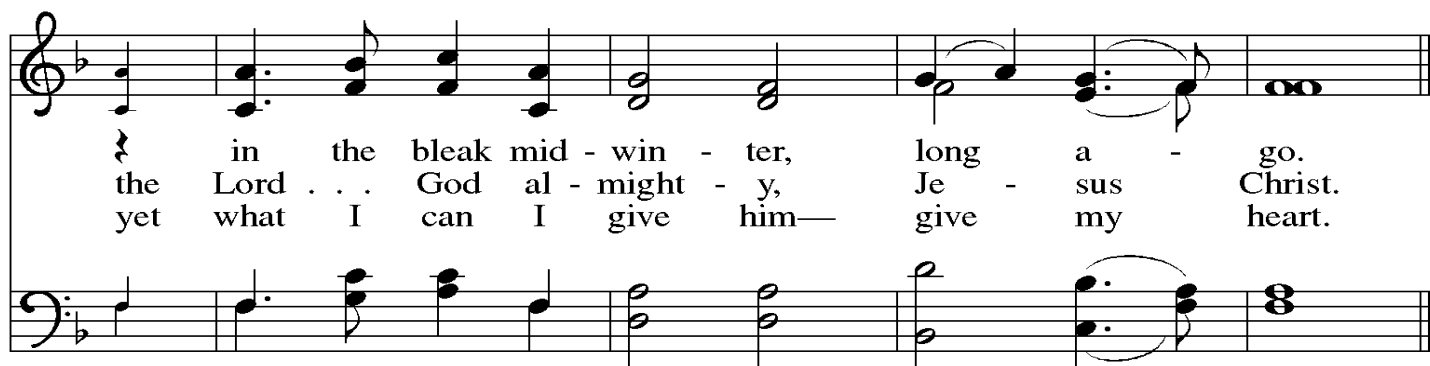
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** (Due to illness, vocal only)

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING



HANNAH JOHNSON

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

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers during the song)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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 and ever. Amen.

SENDING

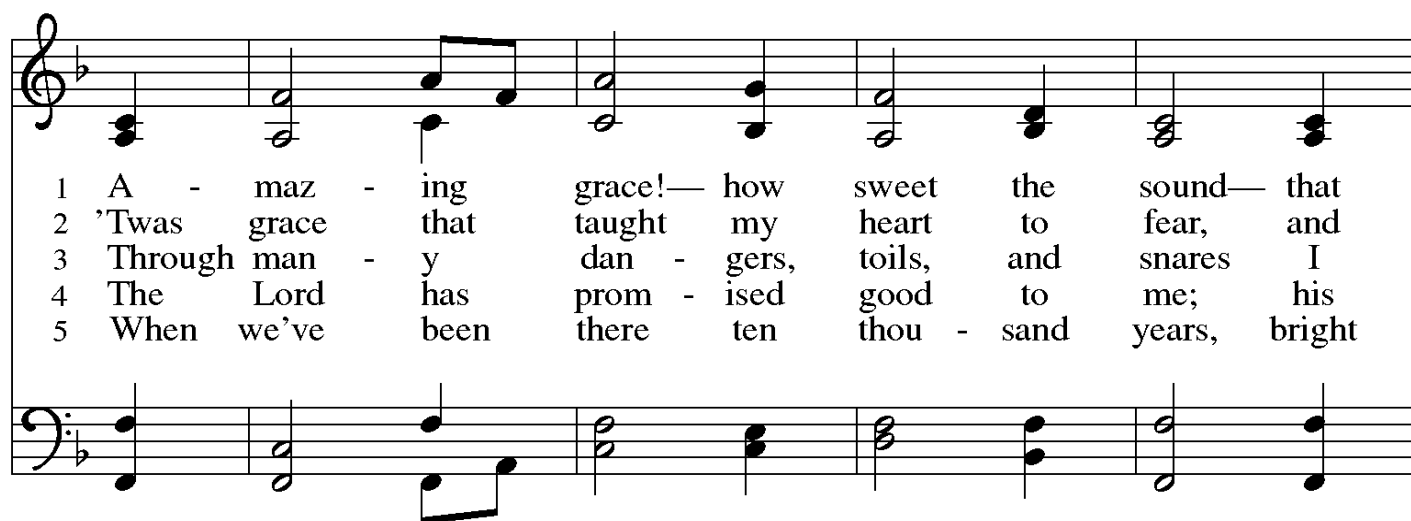
BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

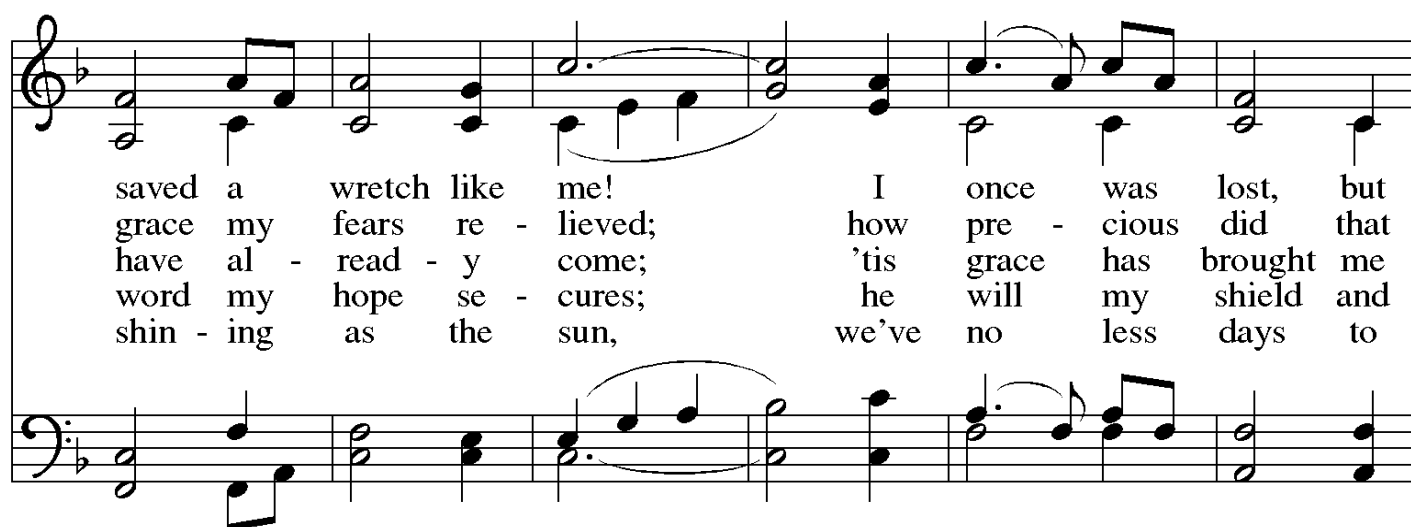
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Christ
IS Coming!*



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Our thanks to all who serve the Body of Christ

| SUNDAY | | 9:00 am Worship |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Accompanist | Mary Mulry | |
| Acolyte | Gavin Fischer | |
| Reader | Sandy Beito | |
| Sound Tech | Russ Sorensen | |
| Greeter | Connie Johnson | |
| Ushers | Dennis Mangan, Mark Miller | |
| Altar Guild | Joleen Dittbenner | |

Our thanks to Lee Johnson for leading our Worship today.



LITTLE CHRISTMAS AT SUNDOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR THIS EVENING HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER.

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 \$1200.00 for those in need. Heartfelt thanks for making the 32nd year of Trinity's Cookie Walk such a success. There are still 10 bags of lefsa available! Talk to Darlene or Pat.



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



*There will be NO Sunday School December 25th or January 1st.
Classes resume Jan. 8th at 10:00am. See you then!*

**Christmas
Eve
Worship**



4:00 pm



Christmas Day

9 AM Worship Service



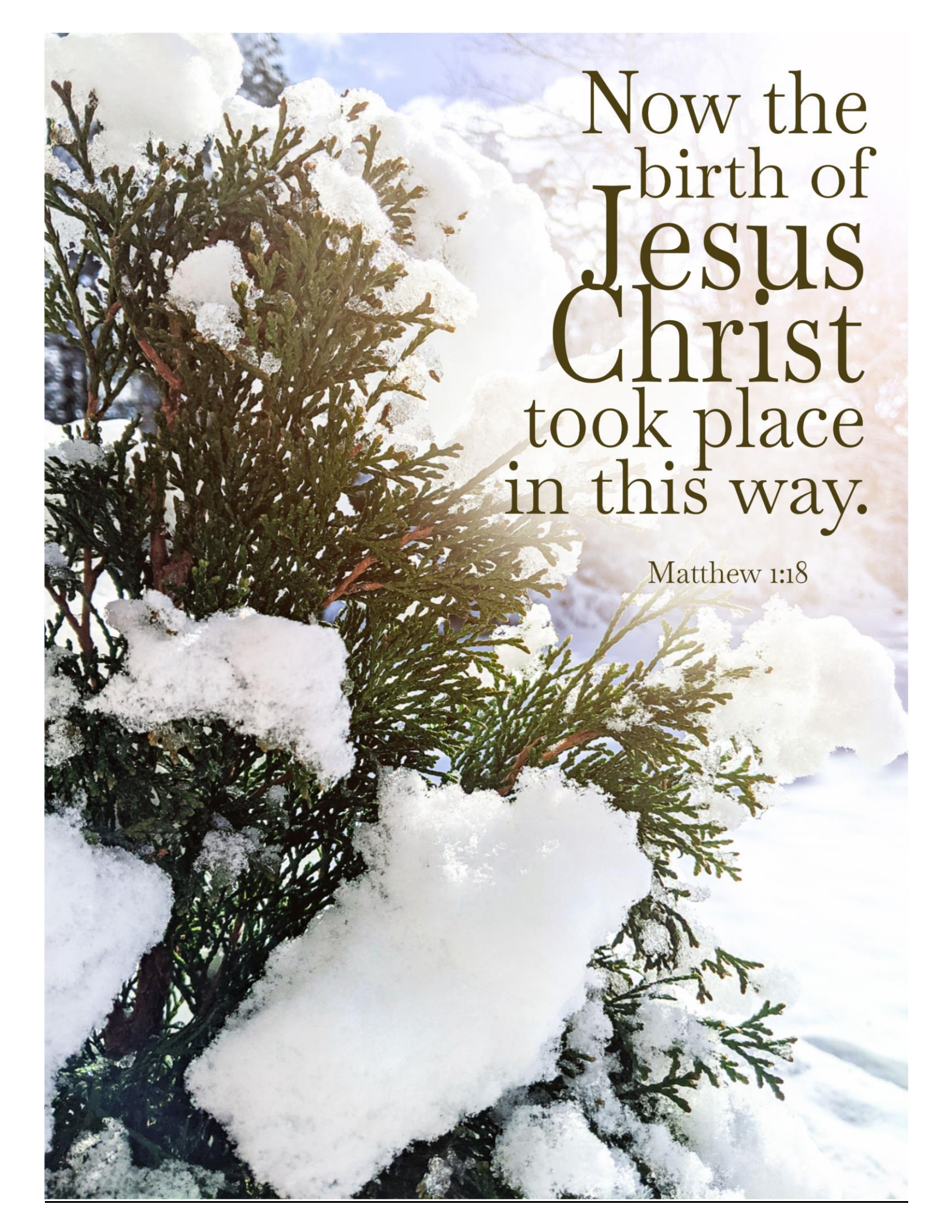
Trinity Lutheran Church's Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Advent Brunch
Wednesday, December 21
9:00-10:00 a.m.

This will be a special time for us to simply have conversation with others. **All are welcome**, including regular members, occasional participants, and anyone else who wants to join us for this special time. If you would like, bring a Christmas ornament or decoration that has special meaning or an important connection to you. We will hear some interesting stories from each other!

A heated main dish/egg bake will be provided. If you wish, you can add to our buffet by signing up to bring one of the following:

- Carton of orange juice _____
- Carton of cranberry juice _____
- Bowl/tray of fruit (2) _____
- Muffins/rolls/sweet bread/lefse (3) _____
- Small plate of sweet treats/candy (3) _____
- Other—your choice _____



Now the
birth of
Jesus
Christ
took place
in this way.

Matthew 1:18

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 | Luke 2:1-20 | The birth of Jesus |
| 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

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.

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 celebrate 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 immigrants, 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



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.

Last week at Trinity

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Weekly Worship Attendance: | 123 |
| Weekly Giving: (5846.00 Needed) | \$3045.36 |
| December Giving: (\$23,360.00 Needed) | \$14,616.50 |
| Yearly Contributions to Date | \$243,334.31 |
| Budget Contributions needed | \$286,383.35 |
| 2022 Approved Budget | \$308,000.00 |



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

This Week's Prayer Concerns

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 Audrey, Kali, Alice Mae, Linda, Micah, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlos, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Julia Ann, 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 joy and spiritual growth to all who are separated from one another and each would be blessed with their safe return to us...

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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A Season
for
Sharing