

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**Dec. 21,
2025**

**Fourth Sunday
in Advent**

**217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN**

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sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)**

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9am -3pm**

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Every member**

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David Nissen
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Pastor @
trinitysleepyeye.org**

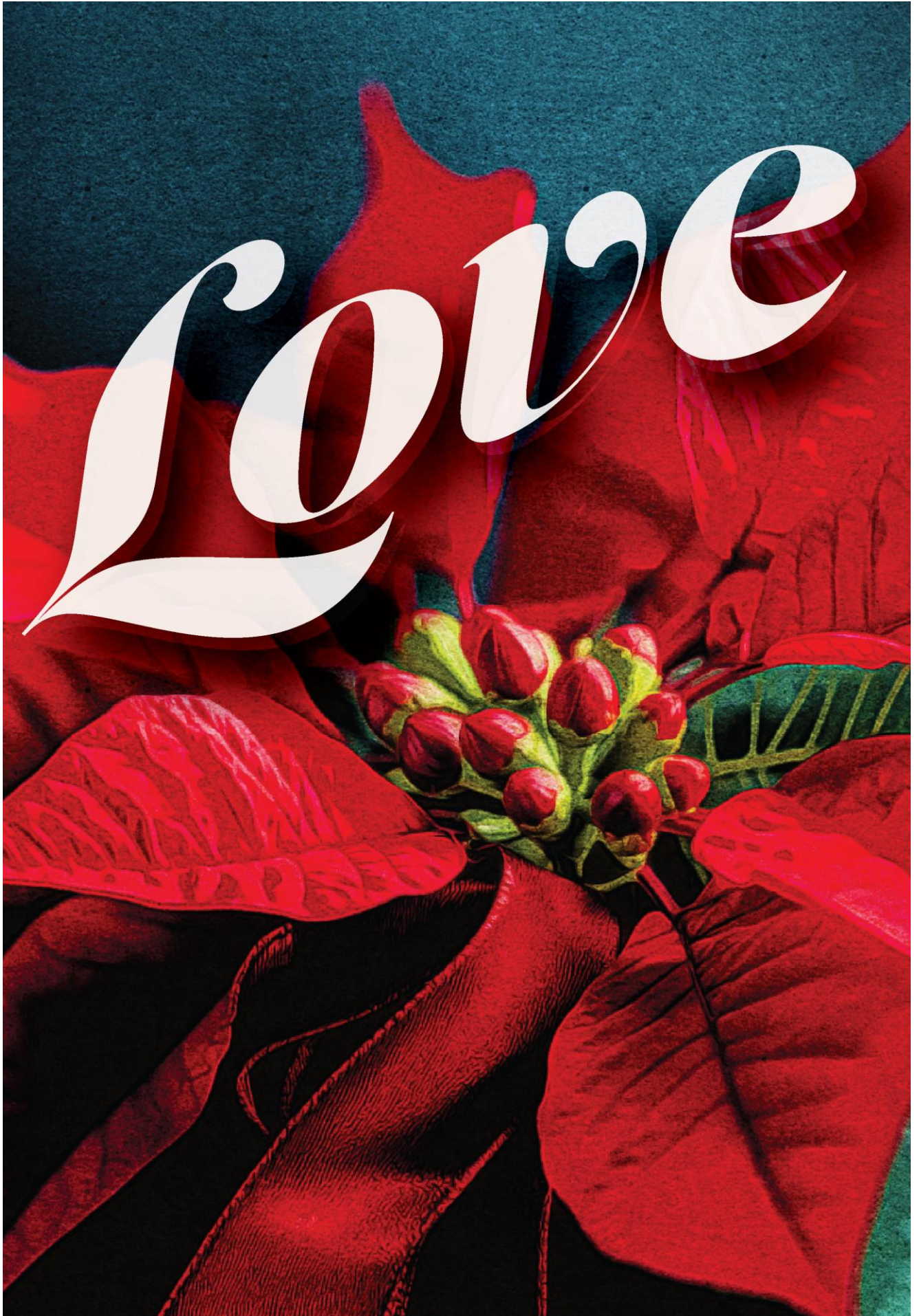
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**Custodian
Pat Lowther**



SERVICE OF THE WORD

9:00 A.M. ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2025



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. Fellowship and refreshments are available 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.

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is for its own choir which may vary this notation). No other use of this part is authorized for any other purpose.

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.



THE TRINITY CHOIR

PSALM 80

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.



WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

The First Reading is in Isaiah Chapter 7, verses 10-16. An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

The Second Reading is in Romans Chapter 1, verses 1-7. Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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



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. Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ."



MESSAGE

PASTOR DAVID NISSEN



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!



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

OFFERING

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

ELW #715



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.



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.

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

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

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.**

MEAL

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



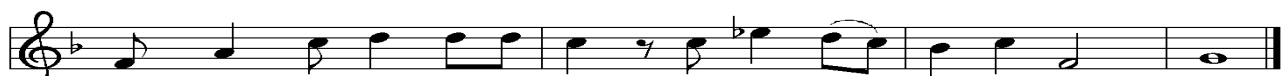
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THE 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. 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 peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. 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.**

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	Levi Johnson	
Reader	Eric Wahlborg	
Sound Tech	Russ Sorensen	
Greeter	Chris Mangan	
Ushers	Dennis Mangan, Mark Miller	
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. Together, we raised about \$1500.00 for those in need. Heartfelt thanks for making the 35th year of Trinity's Cookie Walk such a success.

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

There will be NO TREK December 24th or 31st.

Classes resume Jan. 7th at 6:00 pm. See you then!



Thank you to everyone who filled a Christmas Box for our weekend food families. You filled 34 boxes with food to help feed children from our community during the two week Christmas break. Thank you for being the hands of Jesus in Sleepy Eye! Your Social Ministries Board

**Christmas
Eve
Worship**



4:00 pm



Trinity Lutheran Church – 2025 Building Fund Campaign

"Rooted in Faith" – Preserving Trinity for Generations to Come

Thank you for your faithful support of Trinity Lutheran Church. **We are launching a vital campaign to raise \$75,000 over the next two years to fund capital improvements approved by the congregation—specifically, the removal of the sanctuary's north and south wall windows and repairs to the parking lot. We are grateful for your past generosity and ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this campaign as well.**

Campaign Summary

- **Goal:** \$75,000
- **Timeline:** Now through the end of calendar year 2025
- **Purpose:** Fund congregation-approved property repairs and upgrades
- **How to Help:** **One-time gifts or pledges over time! The Stewardship Board is asking members for contributions toward the \$75,000 goal via direct payment(s) and/or pledging payments on a schedule of their choice over a two-year period.**

Bridge Financing Options (if required)

1. **Member Loans:** Promissory notes starting at \$5,000. 2% interest, repaid in installments through 2027.
2. **Commercial Financing:** Will be considered only if needed.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support this important campaign. Your ongoing support is a blessing to our church and God's mission. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

Please return pledge cards to the church office or contact Pat Stevermer with any questions.

**Blessings in Christ,
The Stewardship Board**

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." — Acts 20:35

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

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:	209
Website	108
Bible Studies Attendance:	8+9+3= 20
TREK/Confirmation	78
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$8604.63
December Giving: (\$23,640.00 .Needed)	\$20,690.93
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$265,976.90



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 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 **Nathan, Nicole, Henry, Susie, Gary, Jane, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Trish, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Duane, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

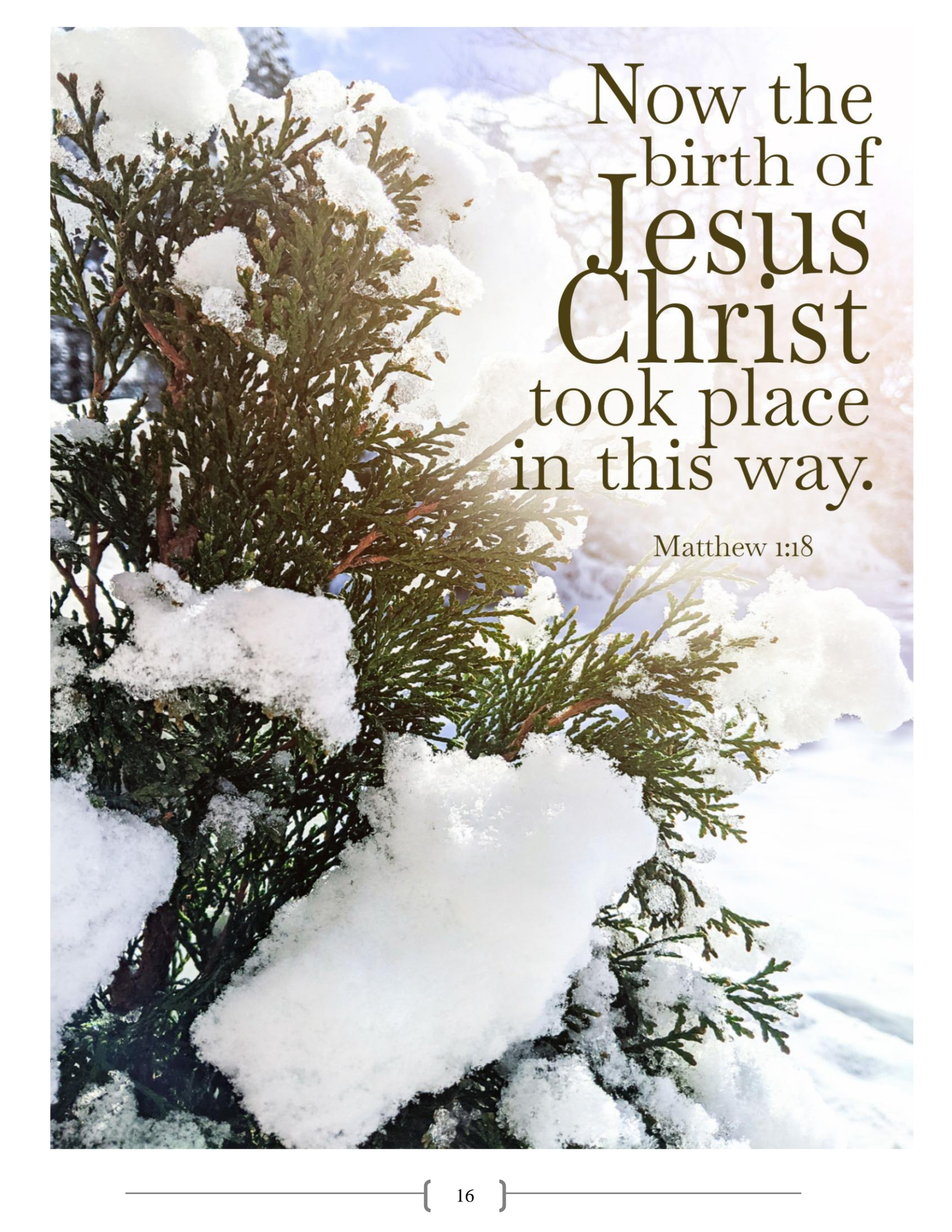
Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones.... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

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

Matthew 1:18