

**Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church**

**December 24,  
2023**

**Christmas  
Eve Service  
5:00 PM**

**217 Brackenridge  
Southwest  
Sleepy Eye, MN**

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

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**Office Hours**  
Mon-Thurs  
9am –3pm

**Ministers**  
Every member

**Interim Pastor**  
Grant Fischer  
(320) 444-3517  
[ogfischer@gmail.](mailto:ogfischer@gmail.com)

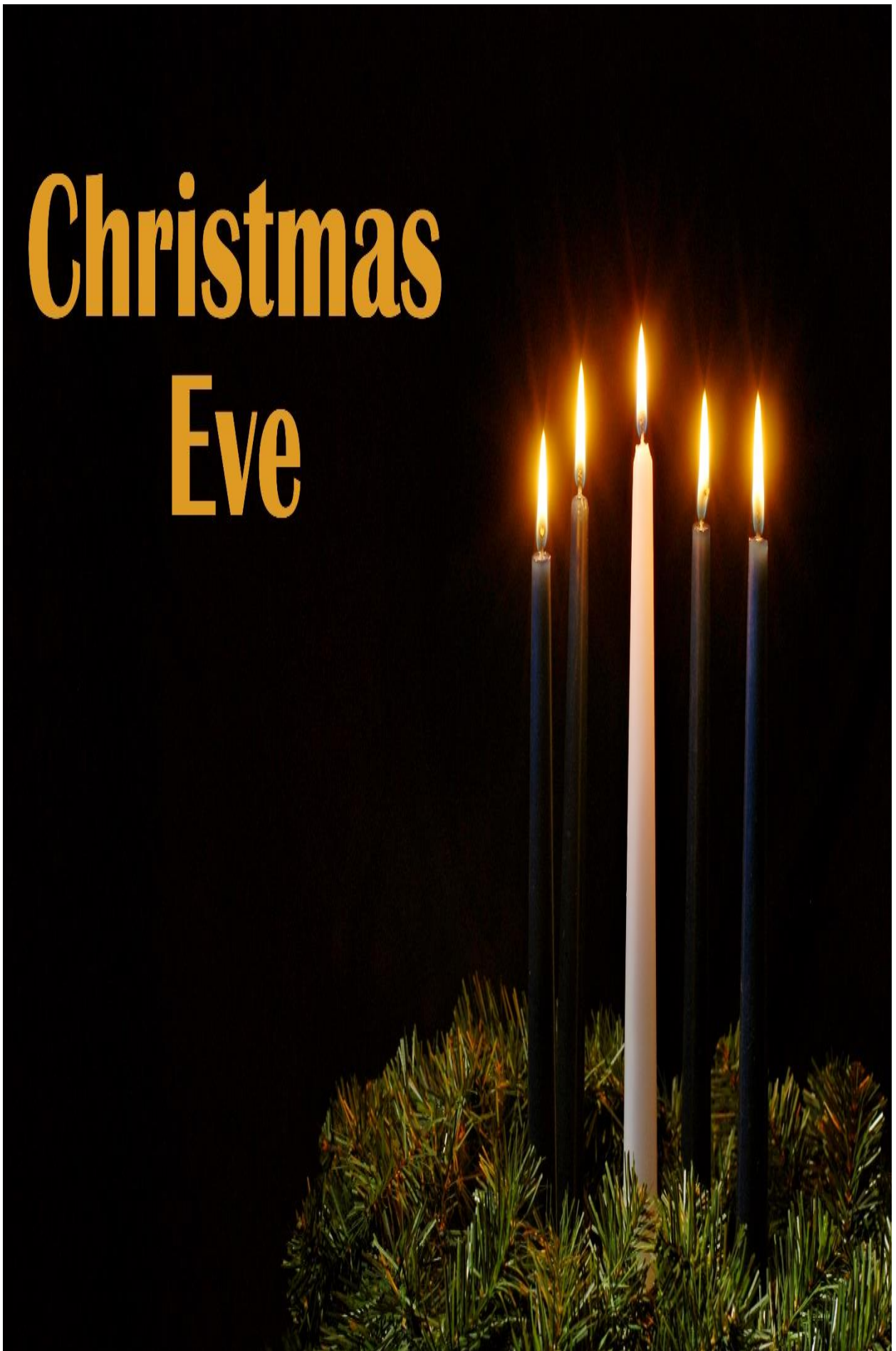
**Parish Secretary**  
Darlene Brummund  
507 276-8013

**Financial  
Secretary**  
Pat Stevermer  
794-7112

**Organist /  
Choir Director**  
Mary Mulry  
794-3768

**Custodian**  
Pat Lowther

# Christmas Eve



# HOLY COMMUNION ~ SETTING 3

## 5:00 P.M. ~ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



*God bless you as we gather on this blessed Christmas Eve. 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.*

*Children yet to be instructed in Communion are invited to receive a personal blessing at the time of Communion.*

### GATHERING

**WE PREPARE...** *On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.*



*"O Holy Night"*

*Trinity Choir*

**WELCOME**

**PASTOR GRANT FISCHER**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

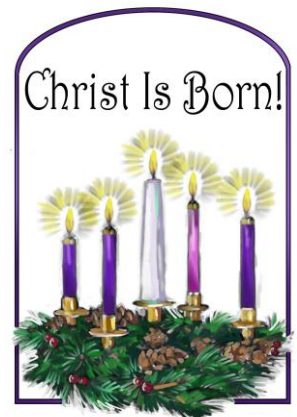
#### THE PROMISE OF ARRIVAL

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

**We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kindom.**

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.



On that first Christmas, when the angels appeared to the Shepherds,

**the glory of the Lord shone all around them.**

On that first Christmas, when Christ was born,

**the glory of the Lord was revealed to all the world.**

On this Christmas Eve, **the glory of the Lord is all around us.**

We see his glory **in the glow of candles.**

We see his glory **in the words of Holy Scripture that illuminate our lives.**

We see his glory **in the happy faces of those we love.**

We see his glory **in the quiet beauty of this night.**

And we see his glory **in the gathering together of people to celebrate**

**and sing about his birth, as angels did so long ago.**



## GATHERING SONG

## "Angels We Have Heard on High"

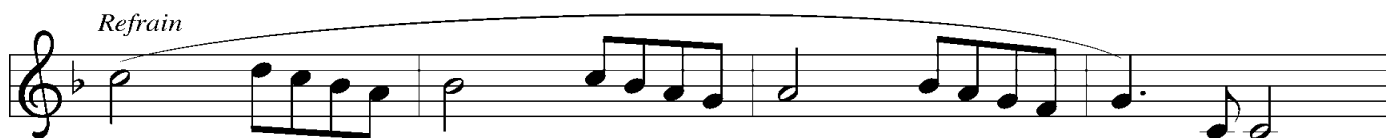
ELW#289



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.



## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the Light that burst in heavenly radiance on Bethlehem's hills still glows for us today. It shines in our Christmas candles, twinkling strings of lights, beams in heaven's stars, and is reflected in the faces of all who are gathered here. Grant that we who know the Light in its dim radiance might bask in its heavenly glory forever that, with the same angels who sang to shepherds of your grace, we too might sing our Christmas songs to you: "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.*" Through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now... and forever. **Amen**



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## WORD

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### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9: 2-7**

The first reading is from Isaiah, Chapter 9, verses 2-7

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of  
David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with  
righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

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

### RESPONSIVE PSALM~ 96

*Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.*

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge  
the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.



## SECOND READING

**Titus 2:11-14**

The second reading is from Titus, Chapter 2, verses 11-14.

*The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.*

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Christ Child's Lullaby*

*Darlene Brummund*

## GOSPEL

**Luke 2:1-20**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*



*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

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

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Grant Fischer

### SONG OF THE DAY

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW # 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

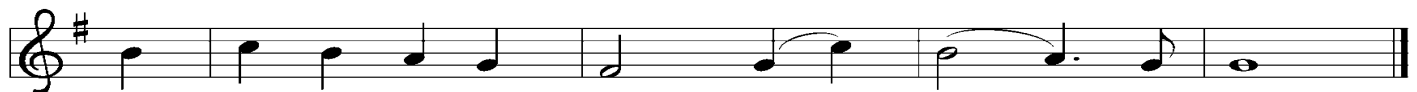


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

#### Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

# 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**

## PRAVERS OF INTERCESSION

**Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

# MEAL

## PRAYER

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. **Amen.**

# 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

*What Child Is This?*

ELW# 296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste	to	bring him laud,	the	babe,	the	son	of	Mar - y!
hail, hail	the	Word made flesh,	the	babe,	the	son	of	Mar - y!
joy, joy,	for	Christ is born,	the	babe,	the	son	of	Mar - y!

## THE WORDS OF JESUS

### 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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.



*Little Town*

*The Vosbecks*

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **Jesus, the Savior, is born!**

Praise the Lord with heart-filled joy!

**We praise him! We bless him! Christ our newborn King!**

And he blesses you with his presence—then and now and always! **Amen.**

Jesus Christ, God made flesh, Savior of the World, came to the world this night.

Not as a mighty warrior on a chariot as many expected. Rather as an innocent, helpless baby, in the stable of an inn, amongst the animals.

On this night the cries of our broken world were silenced by the cry of our newborn savior.

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Behold the Light, the Word made flesh, a Savior, Christ the Lord. Welcome the Light, the Baby Jesus, a Savior, Christ the Lord. Spread the news the angels told.

Tell the world: Our Savior is here! **Thanks be to God!**

*(Please extinguish your candles)*



*Mary Did You Know?*

*Randy Armbruster*



# SENDING

## BLESSING

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew all joy. **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  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! **Peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> or January 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
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.

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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](http://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 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 parents
- ❁ 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.***





