



The Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church
217 Brackenridge SW, Sleepy Eye, MN

Web: www.trinitysleepyeye.org

Vol. 55

December 2023

No. 12

Phone:
(507) 794-5051

Office Hours
Mon—Thurs
9am—3pm

STAFF

Interim Pastor
Grant Fischer
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gmail.com
(320) 444-3517

Parish Secretary
Darlene
Brummund
507 276-8013
secretary@trinity
sleepyeye.org

*Financial
Secretary*
Pat Stevermer
794-7112
finance@trinity
sleepyeye.org

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Custodian
Pat Lowther

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"Meals that Matter" are
available downstairs.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

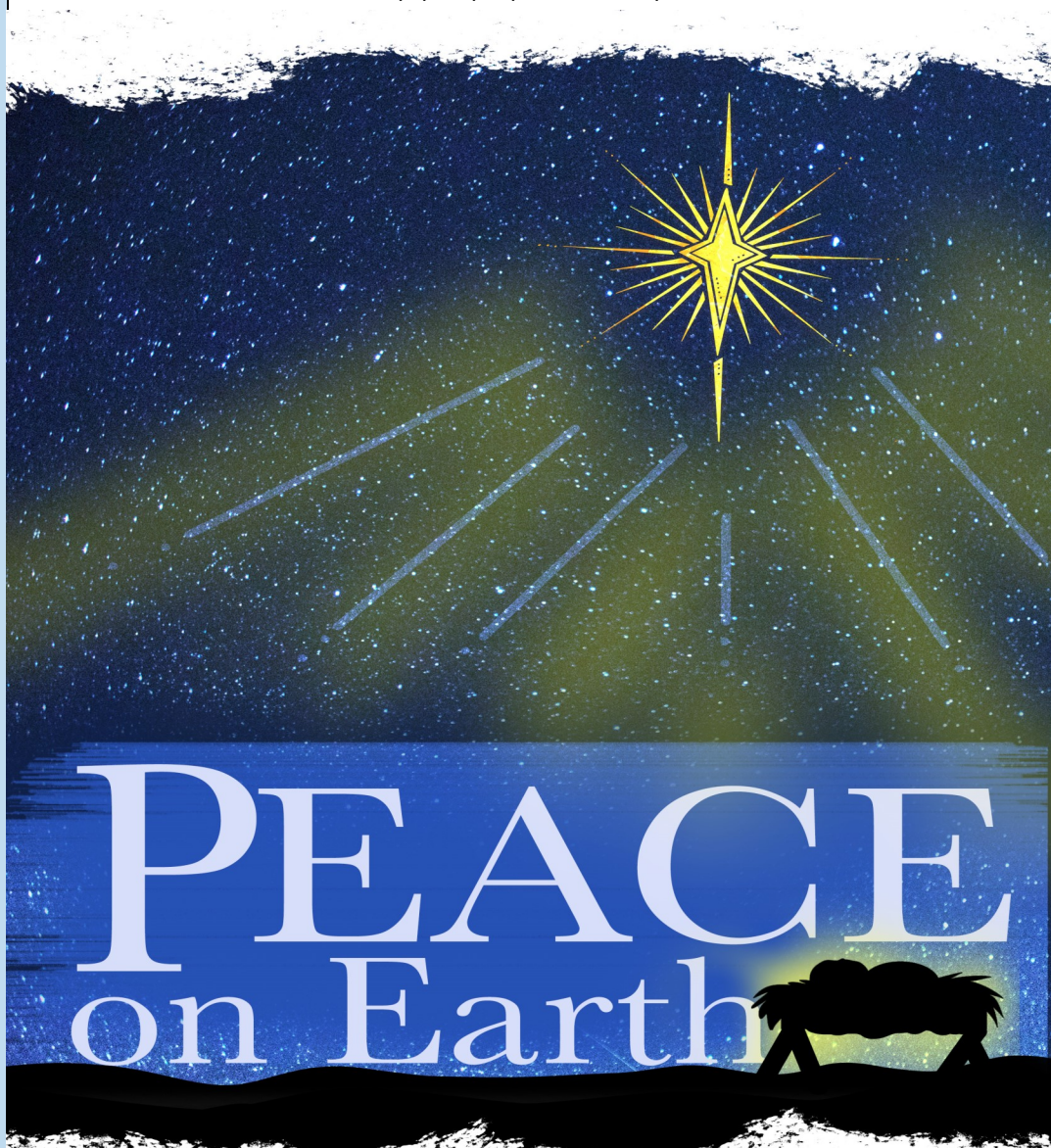
Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Fellowship Hour 10:15 am
Trinity Church School 6:30 pm Wednesdays



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.





From Interim Pastor Grant...

The first Sunday of December marks the beginning of the Advent season. A season of preparation in the Church year where we are called to remember the beginning of God's reconciling actions in the fulfillment of the promised Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

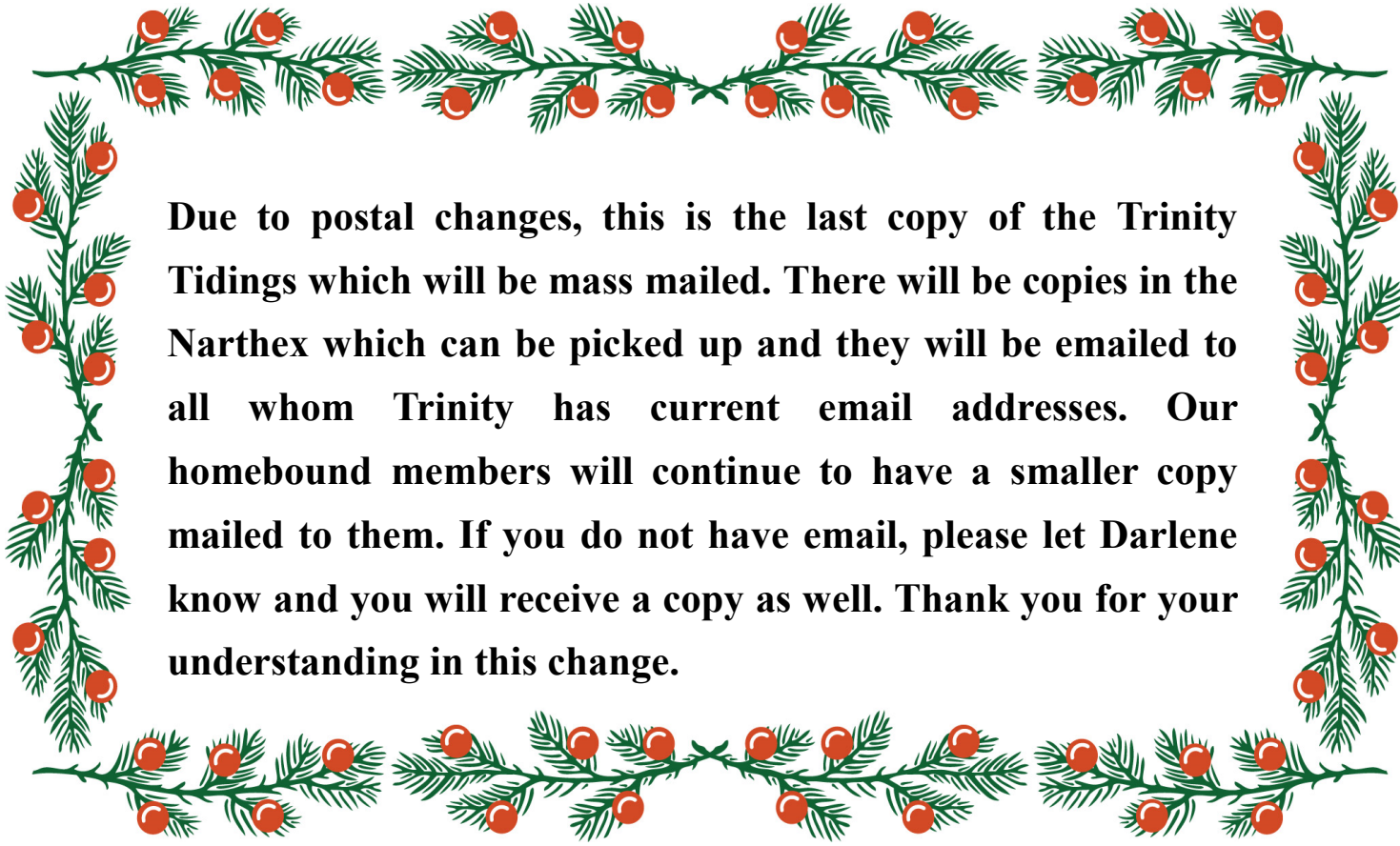
Advent is very much like the interim process congregation go through when they are in transition between pastor. There is the promise that a new pastor will come to lead the congregation in ministry in the fullness of time, very much like the long history of God creating the peaceful space for the fulfillment of the promised to be born. In my experience, I've found that congregations are always in a hurry for that transition to take place without first preparing the ground for a new ministry leader to take root and grow. The results of hurry and impatience are never positive.

You and I, (the you being the leadership of Trinity, a transition team and finally a call committee) will spend a good amount of time in preparation during the days ahead. Much has been damaged in regards to relationships and order among committees and boards. It is your work to reconcile and mend these relationships. For we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, *"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**,"* 2 Corinthians 5:18

The first Christmas was the beginning of God's reconciling actions at the birth of Jesus. It is through His birth that we are able to experience peace on earth and the hope of good will as we live together as brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the challenge of Christmas to make real each day the peace and the goodwill that is so keenly felt at Christmas. So may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep you hearts and minds in Christ Jesus as we live together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Interim Pastor
Grant Fischer





Due to postal changes, this is the last copy of the Trinity Tidings which will be mass mailed. There will be copies in the Narthex which can be picked up and they will be emailed to all whom Trinity has current email addresses. Our homebound members will continue to have a smaller copy mailed to them. If you do not have email, please let Darlene know and you will receive a copy as well. Thank you for your understanding in this change.



Holiday Bake Sale

The Trinity Women of the ELCA

Invite everyone to attend our 33rd Annual

Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 17th

10:00 ~ 11:00

Following the Christmas Program

Held at

Trinity Lutheran Church

217 Brackenridge SW, Sleepy Eye

Proceeds Will Go To People In Need

Supplemental Funds Provided By Thrivent Action Team



Children, Youth *and* Family



Trinity Wednesday Church School

We have begun Trinity Church School on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30! Our students will be following the Sunday School Curriculum at the evening classes. This change has been made after asking our parents if this change would help with busy children's activities. Please join us!

Our Church School students will be singing December 3rd and 17th! Please watch for notices!

Confirmation classes are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. December 13th they will be Caroling!



Confirmation

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Coordinator
Trinity Lutheran Church
Sleepy Eye, MN
507 794-5051

Job Description

Trinity Lutheran Church is a welcoming church focused on evangelism and mission in the community of Sleepy Eye and beyond. As a welcoming and nurturing church, we are shaped by prayer, worship, scripture and the Holy Spirit, where everyone's gifts are valued, where people's spiritual needs are met, and God's love with the world is shared.

Position: Faith Formation Youth Ministry Coordinator (Part-time)

Summary of Position: Faith Formation Youth Ministry Coordinator oversees and directs Christian Education for the youth and children's ministries, and manages the development and growth of the Christian Education and Youth programs while building relationships with families and their children.

Supervision: Christian Education Board and Board of Young People's Work

Supported by: Senior Pastor, Personnel Committee other church staff and members of Trinity Lutheran Church

15 hours per week which are flexible to meet the needs of the church based on planned activities and evenings and weekends required as needed. Compensation: \$16/hr

Further information and Application are on our website www.trinitysleepyeye.org under About Us/ Employment or in the Church office.



Painting Classes in Session!

DECEMBER 20TH 6:30-7:30 PM

Painting class with John Ebenhon Grades 3-6th

Christmas craft painting prek-2nd grade

Christmas treats will be provided

Projects will be on display for the Christmas
Service for families to admire!



RSVP:

No later than December 3rd. Please
use your remind app or text 507-
215-2866



IF YOU'D LIKE TO PURCHASE A POINSETTIA for \$14.00 in honor of or in memory of a loved one(s), please sign up in the church office by Dec. 10th. You have the option of ordering a red, white, or pink poinsettia. Please specify when you sign up. You are welcome to take your plant following the Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24th



IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT DOUBLE BATCH or two of your favorite Christmas cookies to donate to the cookie walk. Our sale is from 10:00 – 11:00 on Sunday morning, December 17th. Please deliver your cookies, krum cake, rosettes, or other special treats to the church kitchen by Saturday, **December 16th** at Noon if possible.

LEFSE MAKERS ARE NEEDED MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th BETWEEN 4:00 AND 8:00 PM. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE. Come when you can! Please spread the word to your family and friends about this great bake sale. Contact Darlene Brummund with any questions at 276-8013. All proceeds go to people in need with Action Team funds by Thrivent. Thanks so much for your encouragement and participation!





GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Dear Members of Trinity,

We are very grateful for many faithful Givers within our Congregation. Your gifts make it possible for TLC to conduct God's work through the hands of our Members, our Pastor and our support Staff. Important programming and the operation of the property is funded and takes place within our Congregation as our way to spread the good news of the Gospel and the message of love and forgiveness through Jesus.

Recently the Stewardship Board has been working to strongly heighten awareness and ask for your help regarding reversing the decline in our financial condition. As previously discussed, budgetary and actual spending reductions have occurred. Recently reductions of expenses in part have come via the sacrifice of staff salary increases, reductions to the Synod and certain programming, much of which is unsustainable. Significant inflationary pressures have added to the financial challenges as well.

The use of reserve funds (savings) for budgetary purposes is used to cover the shortfalls we have experienced over the last several years, **this fund is at a historically low level, at one point this year it was depleted**. To be clear, the trending financial condition requires a course correction that is beyond covering this year's expenses—while that would be a good thing, unfortunately it would not be enough as we need to shore up the reserve fund.

You may say budget concerns are not new, so what's different now? The answer is previously cutting expenses and/or use of reserve general funds would get us through the year. As indicated reserved general funds are nearly depleted and further expense reduction options are limited, especially going into 2024, these conditions are a significant threat to our Congregation's ability to conduct our mission in a manner we are accustomed to, and as a result significant changes may be required.

Thank you to those that have or are planning on responding to our plight with contributions over and above your regular giving. We understand inflation is impacting many in their personal lives and there are those on fixed incomes, but any additional help you can provide is meaningful. Over the next several months the Stewardship Board will be providing progress updates as well as some specific financial goals.

Again, we ask that you prayerfully consider any additional financial help you can provide. There is no doubt we have the ability in our congregation to get this done. We also encourage you to pray for our congregation, so the path God is leading us down may be a clear one.

The Stewardship Board

Larry Baumgardt, Director
Pat Stevermer, Financial Secretary

Matt Miller
Mark Miller



THIS & THAT

Read the Bible in a Year



Week of December 3

Su Mark 13:24-37
 M Revelation 15:1-8
 Tu Revelation 18:1-10
 W Luke 21:34-38
 Th 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
 F Acts 11:19-26
 Sa Mark 11:27-33

Week of December 10

Su Mark 1:1-8
 M Acts 2:37-42
 Tu Acts 11:1-18
 W Luke 1:5-17
 Th Philippians 3:7-11
 F Philippians 3:12-16
 Sa Matthew 21:28-32

Week of December 17

Su John 1:6-8, 19-28
 M Ephesians 6:10-17
 Tu Acts 3:17-4:4
 W Marek 9:9-13
 Th Hebrews 1:1-4
 F Romans 10:5-13
 Sa Romans 13:11-14

Week of December 24

Su Luke 2:1-20
 M John 1:1-9
 Tu Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
 W 1 John 1:1-9
 Th Matthew 2:13-18
 F Matthew 12:46-50
 Sa 2 Peter 3:8-13
 Su John 8:12-19



RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
 YOUR ARTICLES
 EARLY!**

Our Services are broadcast on Channel 8 each Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m. or on our webpage anytime. Share the Good News with those who are unable to join us in person!

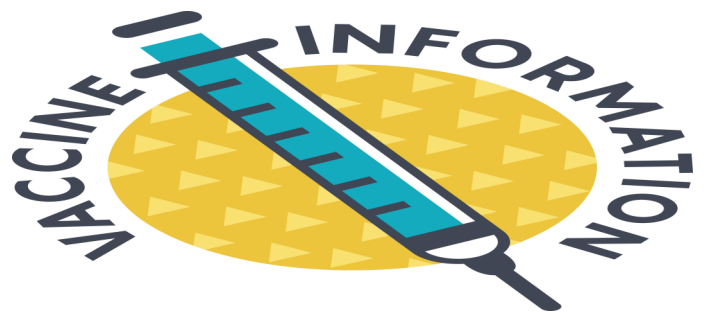
Newsletter Deadline: The next issue of *Tidings* will be emailed by **January 1st**. Please have items for the newsletter to Darlene by the 20th of each month. Thank you.



Please join us for Trinity's "Dining Out", following church services 12/17/2023. "Breaking Bread Together" is an opportunity to get to know each other better and share stories. We will meet at 11:00 AM at the Golf Course Meeting Room. Our goal will be to "Dine Out" the 3rd Sunday of each month!



Trinity friends! Please pick up Christmas food boxes in the church narthex (and the instructions of what to pack in them) today. Please have your filled boxes back to church December 10th. Help us spread some love this holiday season!



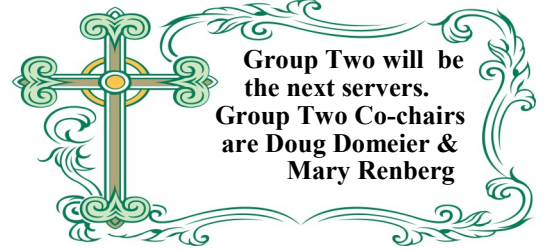
SEMC has the New Flu and the Bivalent COVID booster available. You can call SEMC at 794-3691 to schedule an appointment. Forms for the vaccine are available at the church in the narthex or on the SEMC website.

Boosters are also available at Randy's Drug. Please call ahead. Flu shots are available anytime.

10 Worship Assistants



December: Joleen Dittbenner
January: Mary Renberg & Sara Sellner



Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Acolytes

- 12/3 Kelsey Ladd
- 12/10 Caleb Oscarson
- 12/17 Braylon Nelson
- 12/24 Michael Pool 9 AM
Carson Uecker 5 PM
- 12/31 Anders Coulson

Readers

- 12/3 Rose Wall
- 12/10 Larry Baumgardt
- 12/17 Children's Christmas Worship
- 12/24 Darlene Brummund 9 AM
Sandy Beito 5 PM
- 12/31 Diane Evers

Communion Assistants

- 12/3 Lee Johnson ~at the rail
- 12/17 Larry Baumgardt, Neil Neidt,
Dave Vosbeck
- 12/24 9 AM Mark Miller at the rail
5 PM Brian Polesky at the rail

Sound Tech

Russ Sorensen

December Ushers

Eric & Juli Wahlborg
12/24 5 PM Jon Hansen

December Greeters

Jeff & Lynette Carlson
12/24 5 PM Mark Beito



JANUARY 2024



Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Acolytes

- 1/7 Davin Suess
- 1/14 AuDee Darnell
- 1/21 Kaylie Fulmer
- 1/28 Natalie Fulmer

Readers

- 1/7 Phyllis Kleven
- 1/14 Sarah Lentz
- 1/21 Mark Miller
- 1/28 Neil Neidt

Communion Assistants

- 1/7 Neil Neidt ~at the rail
- 1/21 Dave Vosbeck, Brian Polesky
Larry Baumgardt

Sound Tech

Russ Sorensen

January Ushers





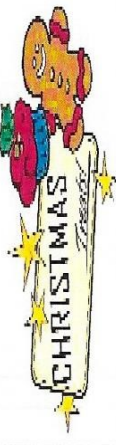
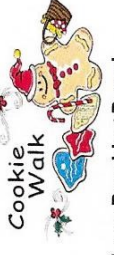






Dale & Diane Eckstein

January Greeters

Brian & Carol Polesky



December

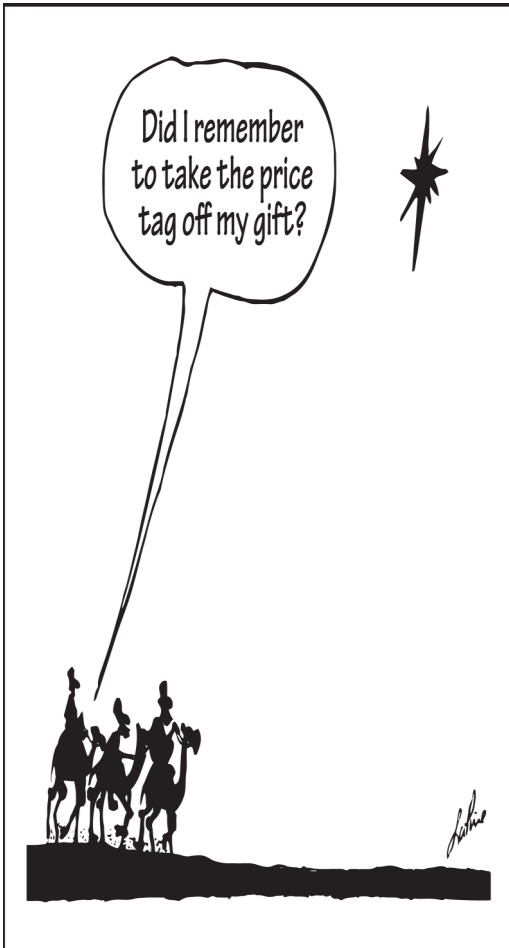
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 3 First Sunday of Advent 9 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship Hour  5:00 Advent Dinner | 4 9 am Quilting K-Grade 4 Chirstmas Program at Public School | 5 6:30 pm AA <i>Are you baking for the Cookie Walk Yet? It's our way of helping so many people in need in our area!</i> | 6 9 am-Women's Bible Study 5 pm Trinity Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Church School 7 pm Confirmation | 7 7am-Men's Bible Study | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Second Sunday of Advent 9 am Worship~Baptism 10:00 am Fellowship Hour  Second Sunday <i>Advent</i> | 11 9 am Quilting 6:30 pm Social Ministries Board 4-8 pm Join Us!  Making Lefsa | 12 6:30 pm AA | 13 9 am-Women's Bible Study 1 pm Ross Park Bible Study 5 pm Trinity Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Church School 7 pm Youth Caroling  | 14 7am-Men's Bible Study | 15 Drop off Cookie Walk Goodies in the Library!!  | 16 Before Noon Drop off Cookie Walk Goodies In the Library! |
| 17 Third Sunday of Advent 9 am Holy Communion~ Children's Service 10 am Cookie Walk  Cookie Walk 11 am Breaking Bread | 18 Office Closed~ Darlene Vacation Day 9 am Quilting | 19 6:30 pm AA | 20 9 am-Women's Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Trinity Choir Caroling 6:30 pm Church School 7 pm Confirmation Tidings Articles Due | 21 7am-Men's Bible Study | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9 am Holy Communion 10 pm Fellowship  Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 PM | 25  Christmas Day | 26 6:30 pm AA | 27 9 am-Women's Bible Study 1 pm Ross Park Bible Study | 28 7am-Men's Bible Study | 29 2 pm St. John's Bingo  | 30 |
| 31 9 am Worship  New Year's EVE |  New Year's Day |  | | | | |



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
217 Brackenridge SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Return Service requested

non profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 22
Sleepy Eye, MN
56085



December Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING 9:00 AM
Fellowship Hour 10:10 AM
Christmas Eve 9:00 AM & 5:00 PM

WORSHIP ON LINE
ANYTIME ON TRINTYSLEEPYEYE.ORG

Trinity Church School
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Confirmation Classes
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Watch the December
Schedule



Trinity Wednesday Church School

