

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAYFIELD, MINNESOTA

Pastor Kristen Anderson
Denise Phillippe, Director of Christian Education

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM

December 17, 2023

Welcome to worship at Trinity!

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

Special thanks to the Sunday School children, teachers, and music leaders for leading us in worship today by sharing the good news of Jesus' birth!

Today’s Worship Assistants

Musicians: Nancy Matti

Communion Assistants: Megan Olive

Ushers: Cathy Tjepkes, Jerry Davis, Harry Follmuth and Linda Koski

Acolyte: Ryan Nelson and Oliveah Wyttenback

Videographer: Ethan Johnson

Holiday Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 3:00
pm and 4:30 pm

Christmas Day Service 9:00 am



Trinity Mission Statement

To proclaim God’s grace in Christ through Word and Sacrament; To nurture faith through Christian education and fellowship; and To bring the Gospel to the world community through Christian witness, sacrifice, and love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE:

SPECIAL MUSIC: “*Light of the World*”

Sidney Anderson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(*Stand if able)

GATHERING SONG: “*Unto You*” Sung by Sunday School Children

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Candle Lighting

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.
You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.
Bless us as this light grows,
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.
Give us strength and patience,
trusting that you are true to your promises.
Transform the lives of all who suffer
with your wonders near at hand.

Amen

Sunday School Christmas Program: Part 1

- I. Famous Friends and How Jesus Loved Them
- II. Songs
 - Alleluia Amen
 - Noel
 - Wonderful Savior
 - This Is My Commandment
- III. Presentation by class
 - 4th Grade: How Jesus Loved John the Baptist (Jesus tells us the right thing to do.)
 - 3rd Grade: How Jesus Loved Andrew (Jesus does much with our little.)
 - Kindergarten: Martin Luther’s Friends
 - PreK: How Jesus Loved James the Less (Jesus gives us a mission.)
 - 1st-2nd Grade: How Jesus Loved Shepherds (Jesus give us joy.)

OFFERING/CHILDREN'S NOISY OFFERING

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(All are invited to receive the Sacrament today...the Bread of Life from heaven! If you prefer juice (instead of wine) or a gluten-free wafer (instead of bread), please let the server know. Let the usher know if you'd like Communion brought to your pew.)



3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*COMMUNION BLESSING

Sunday School Christmas Program: Part 2

- I. Telling the Story: A Participatory Version
- II. Bible Verse
- III. Finale: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

SENDING

*THE BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN “*Away in a Manger*” Sunday School Children and Congregation
#277

* OUR MISSION:

P: Go in Peace and serve the Lord!!!

C: Thanks Be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC: We are looking for volunteers to share their musical gifts and talents with the congregation during the Christmas Eve services at either the 3 p.m. or the 4:30 p.m. service. Please contact Pastor Kristen to sign up!

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

December 24: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (Fourth Sunday in Advent); This is an **ONLINE ONLY** worship service.

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 25: Christmas Day worship service at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

2023 CONFIRMATION PICS: have arrived and can be picked up in the narthex. Look for the white envelopes and find the one with your name on it. They are in alphabetical order.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Your envelope box can now be picked up in the narthex. They are in alphabetical order. Special thank you to Judy Follmuth for helping assemble them!

No Children and Youth Wednesday Activities 12/27 and 1/3

No Sunday School 12/24 and 12/31

Final WASS-Wednesday Supper-Confirmation-Youth Group of the calendar year is December 20. Wednesday activities resume January 10. Sunday School resumes January 7.

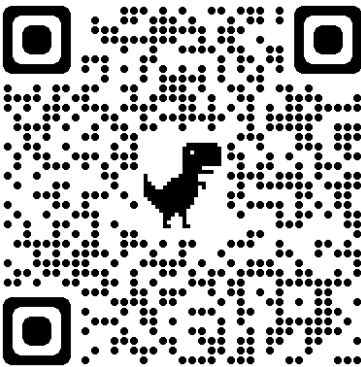
For High School Youth

High school students, grades 9-12, save the following dates for winter and spring monthly events: January 7, February 18 (ski trip), March 3, and April 14. (One set of dates may change for a lockin.)

Youth Group continues to meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for students in grades 10-12. (Those in 9th grade are welcome to join any Wednesday at 7:30 after confirmation.)

**Winter-Spring Signup Open: Help Feed Busy, Ravenous 3rd-12th Graders
Wednesday Evenings-Volunteer to Help with Wednesday Suppers!**

We are looking for volunteers to prepare and/or serve Wednesday Suppers, 5-6:15 p.m. each Wednesday. Your costs are reimbursable if you wish. We provide meals to help elementary and high school students have a hot meal between church and school activities. Use the QR code to access the online signup. If you don't do online, talk with Denise and she'll get you signed up. We have only 10 meals this winter and spring, so sign up soon.



**DECEMBER 17, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



Faith in Jesus brings joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Good news of deliverance
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
Wednesday	Luke 1:39-55	The Magnificat
Thursday	Psalm 30	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Friday	James 1:2-4	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalm 126	A people who dream
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." Psalm 126:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, in you we find our hope, peace, and joy; during times of sadness and grief, give us faith to trust in your never-failing love through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us strength to witness to your love and goodness through Jesus Christ, the one who has come to give us joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of peace give you joy at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)



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DECEMBER 17, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World



taking 
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about something that has brought you joy.
- When have you experienced joy with others in the Christian community?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 126.

The psalm begins with a reference to Israel's return from exile. It was too good to be true, but it was true. It was like a dream, but it was real. Relying on that memory, the people once again seek God's intervention: *"Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb"* (v. 4). The *wadis* are dry riverbeds (watercourses) in the south of Israel (Negeb) that look barren until they are filled with flash floods. Then living waters overflow the riverbanks. Psalm 126 poetically seeks a similar and dramatic restoration for God's life-giving powers to restore God's people. We are encouraged by the history of God's favor that reaches us again and again, now through Jesus. Psalms like this one strengthen us, trusting that the God who came in Jesus will continue to intervene in our lives with grace. Verse six describes a life of faith. We know what it is to mourn, but our life is meant for joy. In the meantime, we go out with our task at hand, seeds to be sown in faith, ready for a harvest of joy.

Discuss: How does faith in Christ lead you to live a life of joy?

Pray: **God of our past and future, give us faith to dream dreams filled with faith, hope, and love that our daily lives may know the eternal joy of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support and encourage someone who is mourning?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light three candles on the Advent wreath. The third candle is the candle of joy. Psalm 126 describes the Israelites' joy and thanksgiving to God upon their return to Jerusalem after their exile in Babylon: *"Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy."* Think or talk about how God brings joy in good times and bad times.

Light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy and say: ***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*** (John 1:5)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

- Sun: 17** **7:30am:** Council Meeting
9:00am: Worship
9:00am: Sunday School
Christmas Program
10:00am: NO Sunday
School
- Mon: 18** **7:00pm:** A.A. Meeting
- Tues: 19** **8:30am:** SAIL Exercise
10:00am: Bible Study
- Wed: 20** **Noon:** WELCA Christmas
Pot Luck—everyone wel-
come
3:00pm: WASS
5:00pm: Wed Supper
6:30pm: Confirmation
6:30pm: Youth Group
6:30pm: Advent Service
- Thur: 21** **8:00am:** SAIL Exercise
- Sun: 24** **9:00am: ONLY ONLINE**
Worship Service
3:00pm: Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
4:30pm: Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
- Mon: 25** **Merry Christmas**
9:00am: Worship and
Communion
NO Sunday School

Prayer Concerns

For strength and healing: Russell Boul-
lion, Wayne Johnson, Shirley Miner, Pas-
tor Bagne, Junior Jorgenson, and Cody
Hegna. Karen Severson & family as they
mourn the death of her brother.

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE
CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU OR A
MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED

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Church Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm