

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hayfield, Minnesota

Rev. Kristen Anderson, Pastor

Denise Phillippe, Director of Christian Education

First Sunday of Christmas

9:00am

December 31, 2023

Welcome to worship at Trinity!

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.



Musician: Judy Follmuth

Lector: Mapuana Evjen

Ushers: Ron & Mapuana Evjen



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

*Stand if able

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

***APOSTOLIC GREETING:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***SONG OF PRAISE:** *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

p. 282

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

PSALM: **Psalm 148** (read responsively)

- L: ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God ¹in the heights.
- C: ²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
- L: ³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
- C: ⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
- L: ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
- C: ⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
- L: ⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- C: ⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- L: ⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- C: ¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
- L: ¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- C: ¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
- L: ¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- C: ¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: **Galatians 4:4-7**

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

***GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

P: The gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to You, O Lord

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Pastor Kristen Anderson

HYMN OF THE DAY: *“What Child Is This”*

#296

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

p.105

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

OFFERING/CHILDREN’S NOISY OFFERING

***Offertory:** *“Let The Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord”*

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL, LORD,
AND FILL TO THE BRIM OUR CUP OF BLESSING.
GATHER A HARVEST FROM THE SEEDS THAT WERE SOWN,
THAT WE MAY BE FED WITH THE BREAD OF LIFE.
GATHER THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL;
UNITE THEM WITH THE PRAYERS WE OFFER NOW.
GRACE OUR TABLE WITH YOUR PRESENCE,
AND GIVE US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME.

***LORD’S PRAYER**

***THE BENEDICTION**

SENDING

* **SENDING HYMN:** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

#289

- OUR MISSION:

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P: GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD!

C: THANKS BE TO GOD!

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU for your generous giving in 2023!

BIBLE STUDY: resumes this Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Children's/Youth Activities Resume in January

Sunday School resumes January 7. Wednesday activities (WASS, Wednesday Supper, confirmation, youth group) resume January 10.

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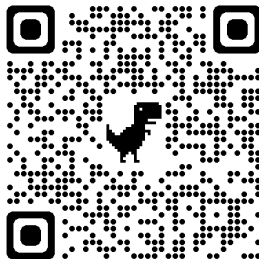
For High School Youth

High school students, grades 9-12, save the following dates for winter and spring monthly events: 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 Our Hungry 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. We provide meals to help elementary and high school students have a hot meal between church and school activities. Use the QR code to sign up online. 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. Your costs are reimbursable if you wish.



From Elizabeth Klocke

The Jan 7th youth event will be a trip to Rochester for the afternoon. We will plan to meet up at the church and carpool there to see a movie in theaters and potentially some shopping and food too. Also, there will **NOT be any youth group on January 3rd!**



**DECEMBER 31, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS**



Praise God for salvation and all of creation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
Monday	Isaiah 61:10—63:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Tuesday	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
Wednesday	Psalms 24	Entrance into the temple
Thursday	Romans 8:18-25	Future glory
Friday	Job 12:7-10	If you want to learn
Saturday	Psalms 148	All creation praises God
Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let them [all parts of creation] praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

Psalms 148:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, help us to see how deep and wide your saving work for all creation is, a love that is seen most clearly through Jesus, the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, with sheep and cattle and all creation, we thank you for feeding us each day with food from the earth and with your saving grace through Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you and all creation peace through Jesus.



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DECEMBER 31, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Away in a Manger



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:

- What does creation care mean to you?
- How do you show praise to God for all that God has created?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 148.

Psalm 148 states that creation belongs to God, and God has promised creation a future forever (v.6). Jesus being born in Bethlehem places creation front and center as part of the saving work of God. From angels to sun and moon to shining stars, from earth to sea monsters, from fire and hail to stormy winds, the list goes on and on to include all of creation as the recipients of God's saving work. God's saving grace is not just for humans. The Apostle Paul names this when he writes in Romans 8:21, "*creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay.*" What God has done in bringing us a Savior far exceeds all that we can imagine, even having all of creation join us in praise to God. When we look through the verses in many Christmas hymns, we are reminded that creation is often part of the Christmas message.

Discuss: How does Psalm 148 help you think anew about God's saving work in Christ?

Pray: O God, our creator and redeemer, we thank you for your love that extends to all of creation through Jesus Christ, born to us in Bethlehem. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, in what way can you show care for God's creation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, Simeon and Anna, prophets who had waited all their lives for Jesus, recognized him as the Promised One. Luke 2:29-32 is known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, Latin for "now let depart." This is Simeon's song of praise making it clear that God acted in a way that gives peace for all people. The words of Simeon's song are often used for evening worship. Write a list of words that give you peace.

Pray: Loving God, we thank you for Simeon, Anna, and all those throughout history who have lifted-up Jesus as the hope and peace for all the world. Amen.



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:31** **9:00am: Worship**
 10:00am: No Sunday School
- Mon :1** **Happy New Year!!!**
 Church Office is Closed
 7:00pm: AA
- Tues:2** **8:30am: SAIL Exercise Class**
 10:00am: Bible Study
- Wed:3** **No WASS**
 No Wednesday Supper
 No Confirmation
 No Youth Group
- Thur:4** **8:30am: SAIL Exercise Class**
- Sun:7** **9:00am: Worship-Communion**

December Attendance

December 3:133
December 10:82
December 17: 193
December 24: 3:00pm 145
December 24: 4:30 pm 175
December 25: 49

November 2023 Finances

Nov. Offering Income: \$15,691.45
Nov. Budgeted Exps: \$23,160.32
Difference: (\$7,468.87)

2023 Year-to-date Income: \$290,449.45
2023 Year-to-date Expense: \$280,65.12
Difference: \$9,791.33

Prayer Concerns

For strength and healing: Russell Boul-
lion, Wayne Johnson, Shirley Miner, Pas-
tor Bagne, Junior Jorgenson, and Cody
Hegna.

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