



Lutheran Church & Christian School



The Second Sunday of Advent

**December 10, 2023**

*Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!*

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## Mission Statement

[Who We Are]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School strive to:

**HUMBLY AND KNOWINGLY FOLLOW JESUS,  
SEEKING JOY THROUGH HIM IN WORSHIP,  
TEACHING, AND PRAYER.**



## Vision Statement

[Who We Endeavor to Be]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School endeavor to:

**LIVE [up] BY FAITH, BE KNOWN [out] BY  
CHRIST'S LOVE, and REJOICE [in] HIS  
FORGIVENESS.**

*"Redeemed and restored, we are rejoicing in Jesus!"*

## AS WE GATHER

Advent! A momentous interruption – pretty much for all of those involved in the unfolding drama of salvation. Where, into the chaos and confusion stepped the Word of God made flesh, borne of a virgin who was pledged to be married to man named Joseph. It was Joseph to whom the angel said, *“Do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:20-21) How strange it all must have seemed. Yet, what a portrait of faith, where, just like his namesake in the Old Testament, Joseph would find himself at the center of a drama that would change the world. Where, the joy of this season comes in saying “yes” to Jesus when He calls! Welcome to worship!

**PRE-SERVICE SONG** “God With Us” *(Words & Music by MercyMe)*

*Chorus:*

*All that is within me cries  
For You alone be glorified;  
Emmanuel, God with us.*

*My heart sings a brand new song,  
The debt is paid, these chains are gone;  
Emmanuel, God with us.*

## THE BELLS CALL GOD'S PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING PRAYER

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

## INVOCATION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Congregation: Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

Pastor: The Lord almighty has done great things, and holy is His name.

**Congregation: We thank You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord's mercy falls on those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

**Congregation: We adore You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord still shows the strength of His arm.

**Congregation: We praise You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord helps His servants, in remembrance of His mercy.

**Congregation: We worship You, O Lord!**

*Silence for personal reflection and meditation.*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

**Congregation: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**ENTRANCE PSALM**     *Psalm 80:1, 3*

Pastor: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

**Congregation: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!**

Pastor: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**Congregation:       Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      “Here I Am to Worship”    (*Words & Music by Tim Hughes © 2001  
Thankyou Music*)

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

*Chorus: Here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above,  
Humbly You came to the earth You created; all for love's sake became poor. (*Chorus*)

*Bridge: And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. (Repeat)*

### Chorus & Repeat

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(St. Ambrose)*

Pastor: O Lord, who fulfilled Your age-old promise to Elizabeth and Zechariah, to Mary and Joseph, heralding and sending a Savior into the world,

**Congregation:** grant that we also would hold fast to Your promises in the sure and certain confidence of Your ongoing faithfulness to us in our own time;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 40:1-11 ("Comfort, comfort My people.")*

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and His arm rules for Him;  
behold, His reward is with Him,  
and His recompense before Him.

<sup>11</sup> He will tend His flock like a shepherd;  
He will gather the lambs in His arms;  
He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

2 Peter 3:8-13

*(The day of the Lord will come.)*

<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 2:1-5*

*(The journey to Bethlehem.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND BLESSING**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*Please see PowerPoint slides or back cover of the hymnal.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

**SERMON** “The Gift of Obedience”

*Pastor Tim Knapp*

**Notes:**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338, v.1

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for each according to their needs.

[Each petition is concluded with the following response:]

Pastor: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Congregation: Peace be to you, and glory in the highest!**

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

*We share that peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** “Joseph’s Lullaby” (*Words & Music by Bart Mallard and Brown Bannister © 2005 Simpleville Music | Banistuci Music*)



## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*  
Congregation: **And also with you.**  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*  
Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*  
Congregation: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You fulfilled Your promise of a Savior by sending Your Son to be David's greater Son, who rules and reigns over all things for ever and ever. Confident of Your compassion for us, we rejoice to be gathered in Your name and remembrance, even as we are bold to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

*Please see PowerPoint slides or inside back cover of the hymnal.*

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Pastor: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. *Rev. 19:9a, NIV*  
Congregation: **Lord, I am not worthy to receive You, but only say the Word and I shall be healed.** *Matthew 8:8, paraphrased*

### PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
Congregation: **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**      “Glory to the Lamb” (*Words & Music by Larry Dempsey © 1983 ZionSong Music*)

Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb,  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.

*Chorus:            For He is glorious and worthy to be praised, the Lamb upon the throne,  
                         And unto Him we lift our voice of praise, the Lamb upon the throne.*

*Worthy ... (Chorus)*

*Holy ... (Chorus)*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*For those desiring to receive the LORD’S SUPPER today, please refer to the laminated card in the pew racks. Those not receiving Communion are still invited to come forward for a blessing. At the Communion rail, simply bow your head to receive a blessing.*

*At the time of Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. For those receiving the individual cups, a non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center of each tray. Following the passing of the individual cups, the common cup is offered for those who wish to commune in that manner.*

**All who are communing** are encouraged to review the Sacrament of the Altar on pp. 326-327, and the Questions on pp. 329-330, in the front of the hymnal.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**    “Comfort, Comfort, All My People” (*Words & Music by Robin Mann © 1975 Mann, Robin*)

*Chorus:            Comfort, comfort all My people with the comfort of My Word.  
                         Speak it tender to My people, all your sins are taken a-way.*

1. Though your tears be rivers running, though your years be an ocean full  
    Though you cry with the hurt of living, comfort, comfort.  
    Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain shall be low  
    Every rough place will be smoother, comfort, comfort. (*Chorus*)
2. Though your eyes see only darkness, though your eyes can see no light  
    Though your eyes see pain and sorrow, comfort, comfort.  
    Every night will have its morning, every pain will have an end.  
    Every burden will be lightened, comfort, comfort. (*Chorus*)

4. Though we fracture God's creation, though we stand so far apart,  
Though we fail to love each other, comfort, comfort.  
Every wall will crack and crumble, every stranger will be friend  
Every one embrace another, comfort, comfort. (*Chorus*)

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

*LSB 352*

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that Your promises have been fulfilled among us today. Give us joy in knowing that the same Savior who came to us in flesh, still comes to us today, fulfilling Your promise to abide with us even to eternity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation:** **Amen.**



**BENEDICTION** *Isaiah 40:8; Numbers 6:24-26*

**Pastor:** The grass withers, and the flower fades,  
**Congregation:** **but the word of our God will stand forever.**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

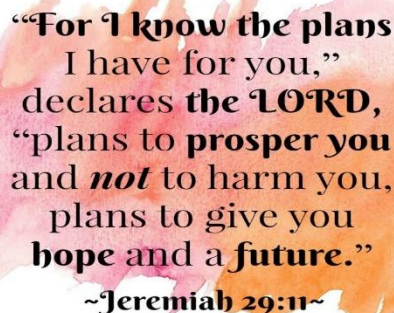
**Congregation:** **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** “Joy Has Dawned” (*Words & Music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty © 2004 Thankyou Music*)

1. Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation;  
God’s salvation now unfurled, hope for ev’ry nation.  
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,  
But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.
2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels;  
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness.  
Cling now to a mother’s breast, vuln’rable and helpless.
3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;  
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.  
Gold, a King is born today; Incense, God is with us;  
Myrrh, His death will make a way, by His blood He’ll win us.
4. Son of Adam, son of heav’n, given as a ransom,  
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion!  
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:  
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Portions of this morning’s service were taken from Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Other music and streaming license used by permission: CCLI License # 500626.*



**“For I know the plans  
I have for you,”  
declares the LORD,  
“plans to prosper you  
and *not* to harm you,  
plans to give you  
hope and a future.”  
~Jeremiah 29:11~**

## Trinity Calendar for Dec 10-Dec 17, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study: "Dispatch to a Church in Exile" ( <i>A Study of Peter's Second Letter</i> ) and Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
	5:00 pm	<b>Movie Night at TLC</b> (Fellowship Hall)
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Executive Team Meeting</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	9-3:00 pm	<i>Circuit Pastors Meeting</i> (Church Conf. Room)
	5-6:30 pm	Men's Wings Bible Study and meal: "Gospel Parallels- The Value of Repeated Accounts from Jesus' Life"
	5-6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study: "Service: Ministry with Heart and Hands"
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 pm	<b>TCS Christmas Program</b> (Sanctuary)
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study: "Race to Glory" ( <i>Book of Hebrews</i> )
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 am	Men of Christ Bible Study: "The Chosen: Bible Roundtable"
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study: "Songs of the Savior" ( <i>The O Antiphons</i> ) and Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion

**ATTENDANCE 12-3: 81**

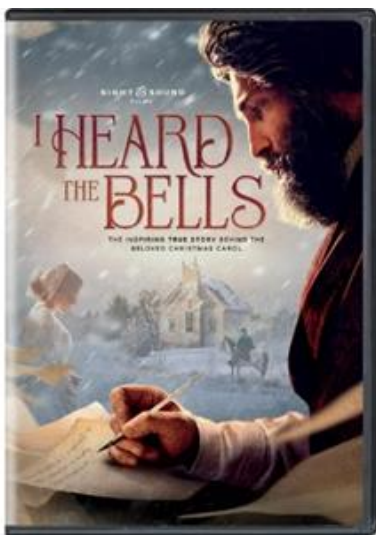
**Families of the week:** *The Randall, Reardon and Ricks families*

### **Birthdays:**

- 10 Dec—Stella Allen
- 10 Dec—Holly Worsham
- 11 Dec—Bob Stoeckmann
- 12 Dec—Lexie Kosakowski
- 17 Dec—Sharon Cooper



The flowers this morning are given  
By the Stewarts  
In honor of Gloria's birthday



The In Team will be sponsoring the movie, "I Heard the Bells" this evening, December 10th, at 5:00 pm. It is a true story about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a fun evening of fellowship, popcorn and hot and cold drinks. Come, bring your friends and enjoy a movie and snacks.

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Would you like to bless a teacher at Trinity Christian School? Our teachers do a tremendous job of teaching academics as well as the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Along the way, they encounter needs for their classrooms.

You can help by giving a gift for the Teacher Tree.



Starting Nov. 20, there will be a Christmas tree with tags hanging on it in the foyer outside the TCS office. Each tag will anonymously list a request made by one of the teachers for their classroom—anything from glue sticks to toys or puzzles for their students. If you wish to bless them, simply take a tag, purchase the item, and place it unwrapped under the tree by Dec. 19. Unclaimed tags will be fulfilled by the TCS PTFA. All items will then be distributed sometime in Jan. You will have blessed one of our precious teachers, and the students they teach! For help or more information, contact Mitch after Sunday Worship or through the church office, or Amber Ruczko at [aruczko@tcskeene.com](mailto:aruczko@tcskeene.com). Thank you for your consideration.



**December 10 – Advent II** – John the Baptist prophesied the Gospel of the Kingdom that with Jesus' blessing is always coming (Mark 1:7-8). Even during surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, He is not slow to keep His promises. Instead, He acts patiently, not wishing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Aren't we crying out about it as this generation's voice in the wilderness (Mark 1:3)?

**December 10** – "You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*  
• [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

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**Next year's offering envelopes are ready for pick up. If you receive a monthly set, they are in your mailbox. If you receive a weekly set, they are on the Narthex table.**

**The envelopes have been renumbered to save cost and reduce waste. Look for your name, not your number as it has mostly likely changed. If you would like envelopes and did not receive any, let Mitch Piper know and we will get them to you.**

**Thank you for sharing your gifts.**

## **Church Office**

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**Pastor** – Ed Harkey  
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*Phone: (508) 813-8201*

*Office Hours: Tues–Thurs, 9 am–2 pm, or call for appointment*

**Assistant to the Pastor**—Tim Knapp  
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**Church Administrative Assistant** – Mitchell Piper

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**Business Manager** – Sue Vekasy  
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*Phone (603) 352-4446*

**Head Elder** - Rich Randall  
*Phone (603) 762-8201*

## **School Office**

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**Principal** – Jill Grant  
[principal@tcskeene.com](mailto:principal@tcskeene.com)

**School Administrative Assistant** – Emily Lester  
[tcs@tcskeene.com](mailto:tcs@tcskeene.com)

**Organist** - Rita Corey  
*Phone (603) 313-7220*

## **Elders**

**Pastor** - Ed Harkey  
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**Head Elder** - Rich Randall  
*Phone (603) 762-8201*

Lonnie Geer  
*Phone: (603) 370-8928*

Lenny Kosakowski  
*Phone (603) 852-6702*

Larry Miller  
*Phone (603) 357 4746*

## **Altar Guild**

**Co-leaders:**  
Jean Henderson  
*Phone (603) 352-8716*

Paula Miller  
*Phone (603) 357-4746*

## **Ministry Teams**

**“Up” Team Leader** - Erik Neilssen  
*Phone (917) 520-9768*

**“In” Team Leader** - Miriam Harkey  
*Phone (508) 813-8212*

**“Out” Team Leader** - Jason Bueckner  
*Phone (802) 598-5678*

## **Executive Team**

**President** - Lonnie Geer  
*Phone (603) 370-8928*

**Head Elder** - Rich Randall  
*Phone (603) 762-8201*

**Head Trustee** – Larry Miller  
*Phone (603) 762-2923*

**Treasurer** - *Vacant*

**School Board Chair** - Marcia Scadova  
*Phone (603) 313-6277*

**Recording Secretary** - Judy Taylor  
*Phone (603) 876-9447*

## **School Board**

**Chair** - Marcia Scadova  
*Phone (603) 313-6277*

**Vice-Chair** *Vacant*

**Treasurer** - Tom Abert  
*Phone (603) 381-8840*

Joyce Gray  
*Phone (603) 812-5264*



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