



Lutheran Church & Christian School



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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 – especially in a world for whom the true meaning of Christmas is lost, a world in the throes of sin, covered over with misplaced cheer that fails to truly satisfy and give us what we need the most. Into such complexity and confusion steps the Lord of heaven and earth, as He did into the lives of all whom He brought into love’s story – even you, child of God, even you! How disturbing such an interruption can be, *unless* it is shrouded in the grace, mercy and peace of the Lord’s coming. Indeed, He has come, coming to us even now! Where, the joy of this season comes in saying “yes” to Him when He calls!

PRELUDE

PRE-SERVICE SONG “My Soul Magnifies the Lord” (*Words & Music by Chris Tomlin and Daniel Carson © 2009 sixsteps Music | Vamos Publishing | worshiptogether.com songs*)

Chorus: *My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord, my soul,
 magnifies the Lord –
 He has done great things for me, great things for me.*

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

Psalm 89:1

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
Congregation: **with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness, to all generations.**

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 *"O Antiphons"*

Pastor: God speaks the Word, our hearts respond.
Congregation: **O Wisdom, come, and make us wise!**

Pastor: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit."

Congregation: O Branch of Jesse, come; spring forth!

Pastor: "To us a child is born; to us a son is given."

Congregation: O Lord, stretch out your mighty arm!

Pastor: "His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Congregation: O King of Nations, come, and make us one!

Pastor: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Congregation: O Sun of Righteousness, arise and shine!

Pastor: "Small as you are, O Bethlehem, out of you shall come the one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Congregation: O Key of David, free us; come!

Pastor: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call his name God – with – us."

Congregation: [SUNG] *LSB 357, St. 1*

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your beloved Son. Enter each awaiting heart with cleansing love, and fill our lips and lives with songs of praise for our coming King; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND BLESSING

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *(The Lord's covenant with David.)*

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵ "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build Me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"' ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ... ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 16:25-27 (*Doxology to the Lord.*)

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to My gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SOLO “O Holy Night”

Pauline Brusco

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-14

(The song of the angels.)

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

Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

Please see PowerPoint slides or back cover of the hymnal.

SERMON HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368, St. 1-2

For this, and all subsequent hymns, please see the PowerPoint slides or the hymnal.

SERMON “The Angel’s – Our - Song”

Luke 2:8-14

Notes:

1. **STANZA 1: “Fear not ...”** (Luke 2:8-10a; Romans 3:23)
2. **STANZA 2: God’s beautiful remedy.** (Luke 2:10b-12; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 1 Timothy 6:17)
3. **STANZA 3: Faith’s – Our - Response.** (Luke 2:13-14; *LSB 358, St. 8-15*)

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368, St. 3

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

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

We pray for the whole Christian community around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the good news that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, be gracious to us.

Congregation: Hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: We pray for all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule, there may be times of peace. We pray for our own nation, that we may find joy in that which is done through it by the leaders and by the people. Lord, be gracious to us.

Congregation: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: We pray for all those situations we encounter in our daily lives that the joy of Jesus may be evident in all that we say and do.
Lord, we ask You,
Congregation: show kindness to us and hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: For all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and now rest from their labors in eternal peace and joy, serving as witnesses of Your never-ending care, we bless You, O Lord.
Congregation: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Additional petitions and praises are offered.

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

OFFERTORY

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349, v. 1

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Hark the Glad Sound" (LSB 349, v. 1). It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The third staff ends with a double bar line.

1. Public domain

✠ 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 "Lamb of God"

LSB, p. 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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 HYMNS "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" "Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB 350

LSB 333

POST-COMMUNION HYMN “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349, v. 4



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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING *(Adapted from Romans 16:25-27)*

Pastor: Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for the ages.

Congregation: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: To Him who has now been revealed, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.

Congregation: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!

Congregation: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

CLOSING HYMN “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

LSB 348

Trinity Calendar for Dec 24-Dec 31, 2023

Sunday	9:00 am	Coffee and fellowship w/Pastor <i>(No Bible Study or Sunday School)</i>
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion
	4:00 pm	Candlelight Service
	9:00 pm	Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion
Monday	10:00 am	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE w/Holy Communion
Tuesday	5-6:30 pm	No Wings men's Bible Study this week
Wednesday		
Thursday	10:00 am	No Bible Study this week
Friday		
Saturday	8:00 am	Men of Christ Bible Study: "The Chosen: Bible Roundtable"
Sunday	9:00 am	Coffee and fellowship w/Pastor <i>(No Bible Study or Sunday School)</i>
	10:30 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion



The altar flowers this morning are given
By Jim and Anne Knight
In honor of their 50th
Wedding Anniversary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ATTENDANCE 12-17: 86

Families of the week: *The Scheumann, Schneider and Silegy families*

Birthdays:

- 26 Dec—Richie Randall
- 27 Dec—Eileen Ball
- 27 Dec—John Hartman
- 28 Dec—Emily Belval
- 30 Dec—Joyce Gray
- 31 Dec—Kelly Budd

Anniversaries:

- 27 Dec—Chuck and Doris Smith
- 28 Dec—Bob and Kelly Budd
- 29 Dec—Jim and Anne Knight

The Book of Proverbs: *Learning to Live Wisely*

Wisdom is prized in the Bible, and Scripture characterizes those not wise as fools. The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wisdom of the ancient followers of God, pointing us not only to how to live our lives, but to Whom our lives are to be lived. In an age that denies the existence of God and proclaims life is futile and empty, the Proverbs of Solomon--and indeed the entire Scripture--teaches us profound realities far deeper and more fulfilling than what passes for wisdom today.

Beginning with dinner on Tuesday, January 2, the Wings men's group will begin a study of the Book of Proverbs. Men of the congregation are invited to try it out. You are welcome to bring a friend.

Wings meets Tuesdays from 5-6:30, always over dinner. To sign up for The Book of Proverbs, email Pastor Tim at tim.knapp@comcast.net.

“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” 1 Cor. 1:20



The LWML Mission Project Group has been working hard on the Christmas card angels that we will be distributing to the various homes.

Please see the bulletin board for the extra ones that we made to share with the congregation. Please take one for yourself or to share with someone. It is our joy to share them with all of you. Thank you.



Monday-Thursday 12-4pm
603-358-6460 call to make an appointment.
100 Washington St.
Keene, NH 03431

OUR MISSION

Pregnancy Resource Center of the Monadnock Region is a life affirming ministry that shares the love and truth of Jesus Christ with our community, offering free pregnancy related resources with compassion and respect.

The coming year for the PRC will have so much more to offer. Our nurses recently attended a childbirth training and certification. When our moms go to have their babies, this is an added service as doulas assisting in the birthing process. We also will have the ability to assist our moms with preparing for their GED. (God bless retired teachers!) We celebrate two new board members, Rachel and Michelle, and pray for John, who is considering joining the board. Remember, we can always use more board members. If this is something on your heart, please contact The Center to make an appointment to meet with our director.

We currently have a need for gently used or new boys' winter clothing for newborns through 18 months. Also in need of a few gently used or new toys or books for children who come with their moms. If you wish to donate items please contact Evelyn Konig, Director at www.pregnancyresourcekeene.org or call at 603 358 6460. You may also contact me: Helen Poisson, Liaison for Trinity Lutheran Church, at helensillanpaa82@gmail.com or 603 355 7939, or leave them in the Narthex at the PRC table.

Church Office

Phone (603) 352-4446

Pastor – Ed Harkey
reveddiet@yahoo.com
Phone: (508) 813-8201

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

Assistant to the Pastor—Tim Knapp
tim.knapp@comcast.net
Phone: (978) 760-1501

Church Administrative Assistant – Mitchell Piper
tlckeene.nh@gmail.com
Phone (603) 352-4446
Hours: Mon–Wed, & Fri 9 am–3 pm

Business Manager – Sue Vekasy
tlckeene.businessmgr@gmail.com
Phone (603) 352-4446

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

School Office
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 am–4 pm
Phone (603) 352-9403

Principal – Jill Grant
principal@tcskeene.com

School Administrative Assistant – Emily Lester
tcs@tcskeene.com

Organist - Rita Corey
Phone (603) 313-7220

Elders

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

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



Guest Wi Fi is available at no charge while visiting Trinity Lutheran Church, please feel free to log in.

- NETWORK: **TLC_Guest**
- PASSWORD: mapleave