



Lutheran Church & Christian School



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

**December 31, 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

Christmas! A momentous interruption – especially in a world for whom the day’s true meaning is lost, a world in the throes of sin, covered over with misplaced cheer that fails to truly satisfy and deliver what we need the most. Into such confusion steps the Lord of heaven and earth, as He did into the lives of the Magi, wise men from the East, who, prompted by the Word of the Lord, took a journey of faith. It was a journey that changed their lives, even as it has transformed our own. How disrupting such an interruption can be, *unless* it is shrouded in the unconditional grace, mercy and peace of God. Indeed, Jesus has come, coming to us even now! Where, the joy of this day comes in saying “yes” to Him when He calls!

# PRELUDE

**PRESERVICE SONG**    *“My Deliverer” (Words & Music by Rich Mullins & Mitch McVicker © 1998 Liturgy Legacy, White Plastic Bag & Curb Word Music)*

*Chorus: My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.  
My Deliverer is coming, my Deliverer is standing by.*

## THE BELLS CALL GOD'S PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING PRAYER

## CONFIRMATION OF ISABELLA MITCHELL

*The congregation is invited to renew their own Confirmation vows by joining Isabella in the responses. The Rite of Confirmation is located on pp. 272-274 of your hymnal.*

**OPENING HYMN**      “Angels from the Realms of Glory”      *LSB 367, St. 1, 3, 5*

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: O Lord, you once revealed Your only begotten Son to the nations by the leading of a star. May we, who have come to know You by faith, be lead to behold You anew, until that day when we will contemplate forever the fullness of Your heavenly majesty; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

*(Zion's coming salvation.)*

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE***Galatians 4:4-7**(Children and heirs of God.)*

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA and VERSE***LSB, p. 205*

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G-clef, 4/4 time. The first staff is an Alleluia with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff is the beginning of the verse with the lyrics "These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that". The third staff continues the verse with the lyrics "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." The fourth staff is another Alleluia with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." Each staff begins with a square icon containing a letter 'C'.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL***Matthew 2:1-12**(The visit of the Wise Men.)*

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & BLESSING**

**SERMON HYMN** “What Child Is This?”

*LSB 370*

**SERMON**

*Pastor Tim Knapp*

**Notes:**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** “As with Gladness Men of Old”

*LSB 397*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- Pastor: For the blessing of God's kingdom, that people of all nations may come to the Savior who came into this world for us, let us pray to the Lord; **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**
- Pastor: For the Christian Church, here at Trinity and throughout the world, that we may rejoice in Jesus, and marvel at the mystery of His incarnation, let us pray to the Lord; **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**
- Pastor: For all pastors, teachers, missionaries, and servants of the Church, that wherever they go, and whomever they reach, the Savior may be seen and known, let us pray to the Lord; **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**
- Pastor: For the community in which we live and for all of those who use their vocations to bless others, that we may do all things for the glory of God and for the good of those we serve in Your name, let us pray to the Lord; **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**
- Pastor: For all public servants, including our government leaders and members of the Armed Forces, that they would be filled with God's wisdom, guidance, and peace, let us pray to the Lord; **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**
- Pastor: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, [*especially . . .*], that they may be touched by the healing hand of our Great Physician, let us pray to the Lord; **LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

*Additional petitions and praises are offered.*

- Pastor For these and all other concerns we have that, coming before the throne of grace, we find mercy to help us in our time of need, let us pray to the Lord,
- Congregation: Father, show us Your glory in the face of Your Son. In His name we pray. 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** “Follow the Light”

*(Words & Music by Marc Byrd, Sarah Hart & Trey Heffinger © 2012 Blue Raft, Meaux Jeux & River Oaks Music | spiritandsong.com | Tunes From the Basement)*

*Chorus: We will follow the Light, we will follow the Light,  
Seeking the Lamb, our saving love divine.*

*Bridge: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

## 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**      “Knowing You” (*Words & Music by Graham Kendrick © 1993; this arr. © 1997 make Way Music, Ltd.*)

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres, and wars to own.  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,  
Spent and worthless now compared to this.

*Chorus:*                      *Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, You're the best, You're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,  
To be found in You, and known as Yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All surpassing gift of righteousness. (*Chorus*)

Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings.  
To become like You in Your death, my Lord.  
So with You to live and never die. (*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** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LSB 384

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened by this Gift, we may now set forth into this New Year, bearing and sharing Your name in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Pastor: Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the days yet to come.

**Congregation: In this New Year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Pastor: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

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.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Congregation: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” *LSB 390*

## 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.***



*Do you need prayer or know someone who does?  
Prayer requests may be made by filling out one of the prayer request  
cards kept in the back of the pews and leaving it in the offering plate or  
by contacting Judy Taylor at [eisen@myfairpoint.net](mailto:eisen@myfairpoint.net)  
For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open  
unto their **prayers**—**1 Peter 3:12**  
Updates to earlier prayer requests are always appreciated!*



The altar flowers this morning are given  
To the Glory of God  
By Susan Hoffman

## 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](mailto:tim.knapp@comcast.net).

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

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“For the Word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword...” Hebrews 4:12



*Don't neglect your study of the Word! Trinity currently has lots of Bible study opportunities to enjoy learning and spending time with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Put on the full armor of God.*

Find specific Bible study info on the church website, bulletin and pre-service announcement slides.

“It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every **word** that comes from the mouth **of God.**” Matt. 4:4

## **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 much more to offer. Our nurses recently attended a childbirth training and certification, preparing to help as doulas when our moms have their babies. Also, we 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 have a need for gently used or new boys' winter clothing for newborns through 18 months. Also, we are 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](http://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](mailto:helensillanpaa82@gmail.com) or 603 355 7939, or leave them in the Narthex at the PRC table.



**December 31 – Christmas I/New Year's Eve** – Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!



### Trinity Calendar for Dec 31-Jan 7, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Coffee and fellowship w/Pastor ( <i>No Bible Study or Sunday School</i> )
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
<b>Monday</b>	10:00 am	Community Breakfast Cooking <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	5-6:30 pm	Men's Wings Bible Study and meal: "Learning to Live Wisely" (A Study of the Book of Proverbs)
	6:30 pm	<i>Elders Meeting</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 am	<b>TCS: School resumes</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study: "Character Studies in the Old Testament"
	6:00 pm	<b>TCS: School Board Meeting</b>
<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 and Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion

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### ATTENDANCE 12-24: 83

Families of the week: *The Smith, Somerville and Stanley families*

### Birthdays:

- 4 Jan—Paula Miller

## **Church Office**

*Phone (603) 352-4446*

**Pastor** – Ed Harkey  
[reveddiet@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:tim.knapp@comcast.net)  
*Phone: (978) 760-1501*

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

**Business Manager** – Sue Vekasy  
[tlckeene.businessmgr@gmail.com](mailto: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](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  
*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*



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