



Lutheran Church & Christian School



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**January 7, 2024**

***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

Water. We drink it. We wash with it. We listen to the sound of it. All known forms of life require it. We marvel at both its beauty and its devastation. We both swim in it for recreation and use it to manicure our lawns. We pollute it and waste it. Far too often, we take it for granted. However, when we are troubled, we may take great confidence that our Lord “leads us beside still waters.” What is more, for all who are spiritually thirsty, God offers “living water.” Where, in our greatest need to be cleansed from sin, God offers the greatest of gifts through the water and the Word of Baptism. Here our identity is forged – once for all – in the great grace and forgiveness that Jesus brings. No identity crisis here. Our identity is firmly fixed in Christ.

## PRELUDE

**PRE-SERVICE SONG** “You Are So Good to Me” (*Words & Music Ben Pasley, Don Chaffer and Robin Pasley © 1999 Blue Renaissance Music | Hey Ruth Music | Squint Songs*)

*Refrain:            You are beautiful my sweet, sweet Song.  
                          You are beautiful my sweet, sweet Song.  
                          You are beautiful my sweet, sweet Song. I will sing again!*

1.        You are so good to me. You heal my broken heart.  
            You are my Father in heaven. *(Repeat) (Refrain)*
2.        You ride upon the clouds. You lead me to the truth.  
            You are the Spirit inside me. *(Repeat) (Refrain)*

*Bridge:            You are my strong Melody. You are my dancing Rhythm.  
                          You are my perfect Rhyme. I will sing of You, Lord, forever.*

3.        You poured out all Your blood. You died upon the cross.  
            You are my Jesus who loves me. *(Repeat)*  
            *(Refrain and Repeat)*

You are my Father in heaven. You are the Spirit inside me.  
You are my Jesus who loves me.

## THE BELLS CALL GOD’S PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING PRAYER

### BAPTISM OF ROY EUGENE BICKFORD, JR.

*The congregation is invited to join with Roy in renewing their own Baptismal vows by joining him in the congregational responses. The Order of Baptism is located on pp. 268-271 in your hymnal.*

**OPENING HYMN**      “This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”      *LSB 591 [TUNE: LSB 937]*

1. This is the Spirit’s entry now: the water and the Word,  
The cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
2. This miracle of life reborn comes from the Lord of breath;  
The perfect man from life was torn; our life comes through Christ’s death.
3. Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day  
To rise again by His design as foll’wers of His way.
4. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for Your baptismal pow’r  
That washes us through all our days; Lord, cleanse again this hour.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor:                      The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:**      **And also with you.**

Pastor:                      Let us pray. Father in heaven, as at the baptism in the Jordan  
River You once proclaimed Jesus Your beloved Son and anointed  
Him with the Holy Spirit,

**Congregation:**      **grant that we who are baptized in His Name may continue to  
abide in that same Spirit who has called us to faith, so enabling  
us to remain faithful to our calling as the children of God;**

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

**Congregation:**      **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 1:1-5**(The creation of the world.)*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE***Titus 3:4-8**(God's gracious work of salvation.)*

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

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

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

**HOLY GOSPEL***Mark 1:4-11**(The baptism of Jesus.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

<sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

<sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & BLESSING****SERMON HYMN***"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"**LSB 594, St. 1-3*

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

**SERMON** *"When God Decides to Play"*

**Notes:**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** *"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"*

*LSB 594, St. 4-5*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Glory to You, most holy Trinity! Glory to You! Over the waters of the Jordan, You revealed Yourself to the world. Grant that all people may come to worship You, and find in communion with You the life that has no end. Lord, in Your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Pastor: Glory to You, most holy Trinity! Glory to You! Our Lord was anointed by the Spirit and sent forth to fulfill His vocation as Savior of the world. Grant that all Your baptized children may faithfully fulfill their vocations as Your servants. Lord, in Your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Pastor: Glory to You, most holy Trinity! Glory to You! Our Lord was appointed the heir and ruler of all things. Remember those who hold positions of public trust, and grant them faithfulness in their service, courage in their convictions, and wisdom to rule according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Pastor: Glory to You, most holy Trinity! Glory to You! Our Savior went forth from the waters to bear the infirmities of our race. Remember in compassion today those who are suffering and in need. Grant them the joy of Your presence and whatever healing You know to be best for them. Lord, in Your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

*Additional petitions and praises are offered.*

Pastor: Glory to You, most holy Trinity! Glory to You! Glory to the Father from whom all good comes! Glory to the Son whose love sent Him forth from the Jordan to the Cross, from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the Father's side! Glory to the Spirit of Holiness who ever seeks to give us faith in the divine promises! Glory to You, most holy Trinity! Glory to You! **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

LSB p. 192-193



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## 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: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. The mystery that once was hidden for ages has now been revealed to all nations through the appearing of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His death, He has destroyed death. By His rising again, He has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Grant that we who receive His body and blood may forever walk in the brightness of Your eternal kingdom.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*  
Congregation: **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.** *Revelation 22:20*

## PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying" *LSB 597*

## DISTRIBUTION

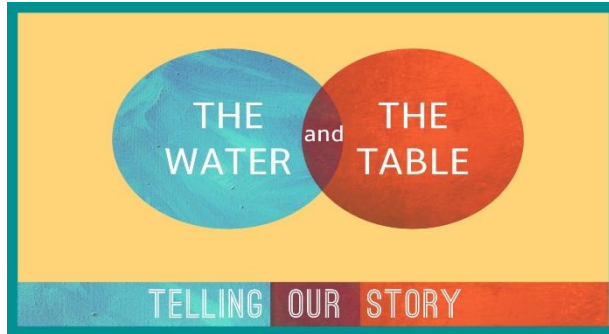
*For those desiring to receive the LORD'S SUPPER today, please refer to the laminated card in the pew racks. Those not receiving Communion are still invited to come forward for a blessing. At the Communion rail, simply bow your head to receive a blessing.*

*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** “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”  
“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

LSB 602  
LSB 590



### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** We give thanks, heavenly Father, that we have again been assured that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake.

**Congregation:** **Strengthen us now as we seek to serve You and love those around us as Your sons and daughters, who have been given Christ's righteousness in this great exchange of faith and love;**

**Pastor:** 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 *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing.  
You have been adopted as children of God through Jesus Christ.  
You have an inheritance in Christ that can neither perish, spoil, nor fade, as you are now called to live to the praise of His glory.

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** “Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The altar flowers this morning are given  
By Norma Abel  
In loving memory of her late husband  
Chuck Youse

### **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***



Lutheran Witness  
Subscriptions

**Time to order or renew subscriptions to the Lutheran Witness. If you would like to have a copy of your own delivered to your home, please let Mitch in the office know by Jan 26. It comes at the low bargain rate of \$20.65 a year.**



**January 7 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord** – Nothing and nobody comes into existence apart from the will and the Word of the Lord God Almighty (Genesis 1:3). This means God desires the survival of every human life from fertilization to forever. We court great danger if we go against this intent or counsel others to do so (Psalm 29:7-8). Instead let us receive neighbors as blessings and enjoy our Father's favor (Mark 1:11)!

**January 7** "What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!" *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

## **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.**

Blessings for 2024. The Pregnancy Resource Center is looking forward to a productive and busy new year. We are currently in need of maternity clothing, gently used or new, sizes medium to extra-large. In other news from The Center, we are looking ahead to having birthing classes for our clients as well as offering GED preparation classes. As programs expand, we are continually considering more board members to guide us in our activities. Please pray on this and should you find it in your heart to be part of our Board, contact The PRC to set up an interview. You may have hidden skills that will complement what we do.

January is the National Sanctity of Human Life month. As much as we, as Christians, look to stay out of culture and politics, with prayer and God's blessings we need to remind each other that it is God's plan for life, life abundantly. It is a time to share the Gospel and minister to those who are facing an unplanned pregnancy whether it is the mother, father, family. They all need our loving support.

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.



*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!*



### Trinity Calendar for Jan 7-Jan 14, 2024

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study and Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 am	Community Breakfast Cooking
	6:30 pm	<i>Executive Team Meeting</i>
<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)
	5-6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study: "Service: Ministry with Heart and Hands"
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study: "Character Studies in the Old Testament"
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 am	Men of Christ Bible Study: "The Chosen: Bible Roundtable"
	9-11:00 am	LWML Mission Projects Work Day
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study and Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion

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### ATTENDANCE 12-31: 99

Families of the week: *The Stewart, Stoeckmann and Taylor families*

### Birthdays:

- 12 Jan—Patty Cobb
- 13 Jan—Pastor Ed Harkey

### Anniversaries:

- 11 Jan—Larry and Paula Miller

# ***A PASTOR'S PRAYER FOR HIS CONGREGATION***

***REMEMBER, O LORD, THIS CONGREGATION PRESENT AND THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT WITH GOOD CAUSE; HAVE MERCY UPON THEM, AND UPON US, ACCORDING TO THE MULTITUDE OF THY LOVING-KINDNESS; FILL THEIR GARNERS WITH GOOD THINGS; PRESERVE THEIR MARRIAGES IN PEACE AND LOVE; TAKE CARE OF THEIR LITTLE ONES; LEAD THEIR YOUTH; GIVE STRENGTH TO THE AGED; COMFORT THE TIMID AND AFRAID; BRING HOME THE SCATTERED, RESTORE THOSE WHO HAVE ERRED; AND UNITE THEM ALL IN THY HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH. SUCCOR THOSE WHO ARE VEXED WITH UNCLEAN SPIRITS; GO WITH ALL TRAVELING BY SEA OR LAND; PROTECT THE WIDOW, SHELTER THE FATHERLESS, DELIVER THOSE IN DISTRESS AND POVERTY, OR ANY KIND OF TROUBLE.***

***REMEMBER ALL WHO STAND IN NEED OF THY PITY; THOSE THAT LOVE US; THOSE THAT HATE US; THOSE WHO DESIRE OUR PRAYERS, UNWORTHY THOUGH WE BE TO OFFER THEM TO THEE. REMEMBER, O LORD, ALL THY PEOPLE, AND POUR UPON THEM IN ABUNDANCE OF THY GOODNESS, GRANTING ALL THEIR PRAYERS TO SALVATION. ALL THOSE WHOM WE HAVE NOT REMEMBERED THROUGH IGNORANCE OR FORGETFULNESS, OR THROUGH THE MULTITUDE OF THEIR NAMES, DO THOU THYSELF CALL TO MIND, O GOD, WHO KNOWEST THE NAME AND AGE OF EACH EVEN FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB. FOR THOU, O LORD ART HELPER OF THE HELPLESS, THE HOME OF THE HOMELESS, THE SAVIOUR OF THE TEMPTED-TOSSED, THE HARBOR OF THE VOYAGER, AND THE PHYSICIAN OF THE SICK. BE THOU ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN. FOR THOU KNOWEST THEM ALL, THEIR PETITIONS, THEIR DWELLINGS AND THEIR MINDS.***

***AMEN.***

**ST. BASIL OF CAESAREA, 329-379**

## **Church Office**

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**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)  
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**Church Administrative Assistant** –  
Mitchell Piper  
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*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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