

First Sunday of Advent

WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— YOU ARE A BLESSING —

November 30-December 1, 2024



Trinity Lutheran Church

213 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Mason City, Iowa 50401 | 641-423-0536 | trinity-mc.org

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

December 1 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9

2024 ADVENT SERIES: WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

You Are a Blessing

Mary is described as “blessed among women” (Luke 1:28). She is neither wealthy nor powerful, and yet she is chosen to bear God’s child. Her story begins with blessedness, and so does ours, for the prophet Isaiah declares that we are claimed by a God who calls our name. We are a blessing because we belong to God. When blessedness is our beginning, we begin to see the world—and others—through the eyes of a God who says: “You are precious in my sight” (Isaiah 43:4).

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad you’re here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. A **unstaffed nursery** is available during the **9:00 and 10:30 services**, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (door under the stained glass window door).

Toddler Sunday School:

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:15-10:15am parents are invited to join their 0-2 year old for a time of free play, activities, and Bible stories in the nursery.

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved in the pew located in front of the Technical booth.

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

Serving in Worship This Weekend

Pastor Pastor Dan Gerriets
Pastor Daniel Hanson
Pastor Beverly Butler

Organist Jodi Korth

Cantor Alli Day (Sat.)
Mel Shallberg (Sun.)

Greeters Randy & Kathy Dedor

Coffee Fellowship
Kevin Hendrikson, Roz Barron,
Tanya Brunsvold

Advent Candle Lighting

5:00 p.m. Cliff & Lou Ann Rossler
9:00 a.m. Randy & Becky Elsbernd

Scripture Readers

5:00 p.m. Cliff Rossler
9:00 a.m. Miles Hansen

Communion Assistants

5:00 p.m. Cliff & Lou Ann Rossler
Earl Keifer
9:00 a.m. Ken & Paula Zimmerman

Acolytes

Raina Rattay, Ranger Rattay

Technical Support

9:00 a.m. Henry Hansen, Carter Rockwell
Peyton Wickering

Worship Transportation

9:00 a.m. Randy Elsbernd, Kay Larson

Ushers

5:00 p.m. The Suntken Family
9:00 a.m. Tracy Farland, Kurt Lamers,
Candy Marshall, Jake Rockman

Building Host

Dana Rockwell

GATHERING

Prelude (9am)

Coventry Carol

String Quartet—Sophia Fitzgerald, Dan Gerriets, Pat Guetzko, Melissa Shallberg

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting

L In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

C Let us begin with the good news!
Let us begin by trusting that we are a
blessing, loved by a gracious God.
Let us begin with music and singing!
Let us begin with warmth and welcome.
Let us begin with hope.

L Yes, let us begin with hope.
Today we light the candle of hope to
shine a light in a worn and weary world.

C May this be our foundation.
May this be our fresh start.
May this be our new beginning.
May hope flow forth from here.
Amen!

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things:
that she is highly favored, and
that she is going to have a child.
Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks,
"How can this be?"
As we approach the prayer of confession,
We may ask ourselves this same awestruck question,
"How can this be?"
How can God's mercy know no end?
How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me?
Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes.
So join me in speaking the truth of our lives.
Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck.
Let us pray:

C Affirming God,
Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.”
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick
instead of yours.
We believe.
Help our unbelief.
In Christ’s name we pray, amen.

P Family of faith,
I don’t know the last time someone told you that you are good,
just as you are.
I don’t know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the
image of God.
I don’t know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed
that you are a blessing.
However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah:
God says,

**C “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name.
You are mine.”**

P We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

C Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

ELW 436

***Greeting**

P Grace and peace be with you in the name of the Triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Affirming God,

How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it?
How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear?

Open our hearts.

Create space in us to not only hear these words,
but to believe the good news tucked between them.

We are hungry for your wisdom,
so speak to us now.

With hope and curiosity,
we listen.

With hope and curiosity,
we dare to begin again.

C Amen.

Children's Sermon(9:00)

Pastor Beverly Butler

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

L But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;
 bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
 7 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made."

- L The word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

Marty Haugen

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

***Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

P ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Beverly Butler

Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

***Affirmation of Faith**

C **We believe in a blessing God
who calls us Beloved.**

**We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary,
and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman,
the poor in spirit,
the children,
the crowds,
the Jews,
the Gentiles,
the faithful and the doubting.**

**So in faith,
we trust that God’s blessing,
like ripples on the water,
forever reaches toward us.**

**And with wild hope,
we believe
that because of this blessing,
we are covered in love.**

We are more than enough.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

***Prayers of the People**

L Lord in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

MEAL

Announcements

Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



Offering (9am)

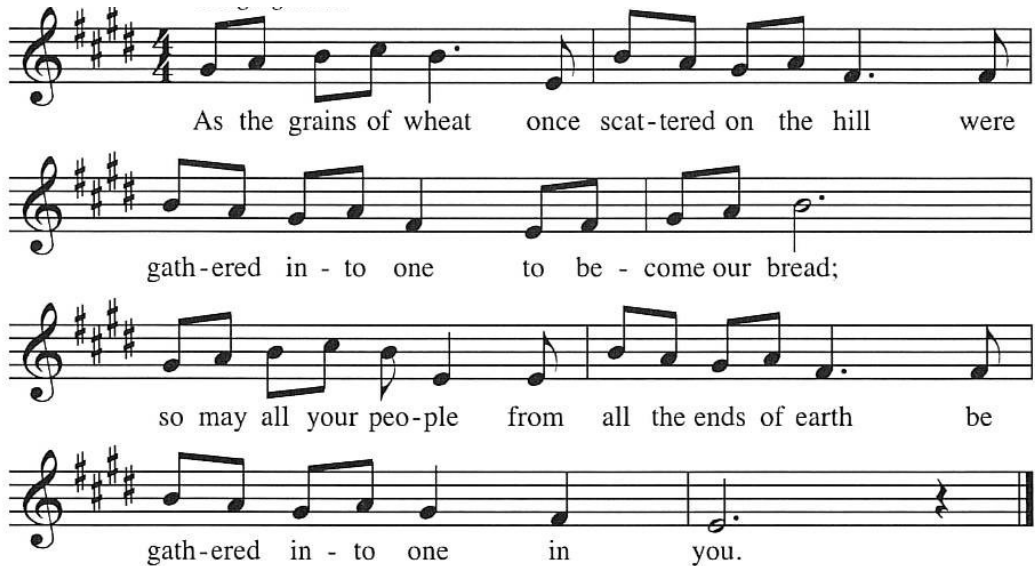
What Child Is This

String Quartet—Sophia Fitzgerald, Dan Gerriets, Pat Guetzko, Melissa Shallberg

***Offertory**

As the Grains of Wheat

Marty Haugen



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses

As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst

may we share the pres-ence of your love. *to Refrain*

***Offering Prayer**

P Creator God,
 you made the whole world,
 even the farthest stars,
 and you draw near to feed us.
 We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
 Strengthen us with this food
 that we may live in expectation
 for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P God of new beginnings,
 As we prepare to come to this Table, pour out your spirit in this room.
 Allow this meal to feel like a new beginning.
 Allow us to experience welcome here.
 Allow for all to be fed here.
 Allow for all to sense your presence here.
 And may these experiences jumpstart our faith, hope, and love in new ways.
 With hope we gather. With hope we begin again.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power,
 and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Communion

All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that come in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today. Usbers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary, where you may kneel at the rail. You will return to your seat by the center aisle. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.

Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones.
Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that
it's never too late to build your kingdom here.
We are grateful.
We are so grateful.

C Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

People, Look East

ELW 248

***Sending**

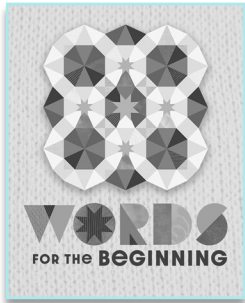
P Go in peace. Hold onto hope.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude (9am)

Carol of the Bells

String Quartet—Sophia Fitzgerald, Dan Gerriets, Pat Guetzko, Melissa Shallberg



Season of Advent

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new.

Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

Second Sunday of Advent—December 8—***We Can't Go Alone*** (9am Only)
Includes Service of Lament and Hope

Third Sunday of Advent—December 14-15—***Do The Good That Is Yours To Do***
Fourth Sunday of Advent—***December 21-22—Hope Is Worth***

Words for the Beginning Daily Devotionals are available
at the Welcome Desk and East Entrance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given by Linda Godfrey.

The **cover art for the bulletin** is given for the blessings God has given; for family and friends, for the strength to keep going and copier repair people! Given by **Cliff and Lou Ann Rossler**.

Congratulations to Jonathan and Ashley Morrison on the birth of their daughter, *Hattie Margaret Morrison* on November 9, 2024.

Annual Christmas Tea

Thursday, December 5 | 1:30 PM / Fellowship Hall

The Annual Trinity Christmas Tea will feature speaker Betty Jean Kauffman and her Norwegian Forest Cats for a time of fellowship and learning about the breed. Offerings will go to the Northern Lights Alliance, Women and Children Shelter “New Beginnings House of Hope”. Friends welcome! To learn more visit www.vikingtails.com.

Annual Christmas Cantata—*Blessed Mother*

Saturday, December 7 | 5:00 PM

This time of year can overflow with the busy-ness of preparing for Christmas. It can be difficult to pause and reflect on preparing our hearts to both celebrate and appreciate the wondrous circumstances of God’s coming to earth as one of us.

Join the Trinity Choir and Friends for an evening of verse and song honoring the story of Mary, his humble mother. From prophecy to fulfillment, she delivered the greatest gift the world has ever received, her son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 8 | 10:30 AM / Sanctuary

December 8, 2024 is the Sunday School Christmas Program, a very special event for all ages, featuring Sunday School students and the Santa Lucia processional. Reminder to Parents:

On Sunday, December 8, there will be Sunday School as usual at 9:15 a.m. Please go directly to the sanctuary following the SS hour. Age 3—K students will sit with you after they sing.

The children will leave during the recessional. You can pick up your child at his/her SS room as usual following the program, using the doorway from sanctuary to SS wing.

Christmas Sing-Along

Sunday, December 8 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM / Fat Hill Brewing

Join us for a sing-along at Fat Hill Brewing! Please bring an appetizer to share.

Please Note: This is an adult event.

Candle Lighting and Readers

Help us light the Advent Wreath each weekend in **December**. Readings are short and simple - great for individuals or families! We also need candle lighter and readers for the Christmas Eve services. See the sign up sheet posted by the church offices or call the office to sign up: 423-0536.

Wednesday—Dec. 4

Advent Meal

Will begin at 6:00 p.m.
Goulash, Salad, Bread Sticks and Dessert

Holden Evening Advent Service

Will begin at 6:30 p.m.
A beautiful service of music, light, and prayer celebrating the wonder of Advent.

Bazaar Wrap Up Meeting—is Tuesday, December 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Hygiene Pantry Reminder

Hygiene Pantry items can be brought to Trinity's east entrance on the second weekend each month. *Shampoo; Bath Soap; Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Dish Soap; Laundry Soap; Deodorant, Toilet Tissue; Feminine Hygiene Products, Wipes; Bar of Soap* Questions? Contact the church office.

Youth Advent Brunch Fundraiser

Sunday, December 15, | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM / Fellowship Hall
Join us on December 15th for a youth fundraiser brunch! We will have both sweet and savory breakfast casserole, fruit, cinnamon rolls, and more! We will be collecting free will donations. Brunch will be served from 9:30-11:00 am on Sunday morning.

Middle School Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15, | 2-4:00 PM
Fellowship Hall
All 5-8th graders are invited to a Christmas party on Sunday, Dec 15 from 2-4pm. We will have some holiday fun including a gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped gift valued \$10 or less.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer (Rm. 322)
6:00 p.m. Trinity Bronze Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 3

8-9:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
9:30 a.m. Bazaar Wrap Up Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)
Noon Staff Meeting
4:15 p.m. NordKor Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 4

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Advent Meal
6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Advent Service
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 5

8:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
10:30 a.m. Clapper Bell Choir (Sanctuary)
1:30 p.m. Christmas Tea
7:00 p.m. Una Vocis Rehearsal

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 7

5:00 p.m. CANTATA Worship Service

Sunday, December 8

8:00 a.m. Heath Cabinet Mtg. (Rm. 300)
9:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. **Sunday School Christmas Program**
5:00 p.m. Christmas Sing-A-Long (Fat Hill Brewery)

Giving Tree

The Ministries Committee is once again sponsoring the Salvation Army Angel Tag and YSS North Iowa Giving Tree. The Giving Tree will be located near the East entrance beginning November 20. Please have all items returned to the church by **Thursday, December 12**. The tags will indicate on the back whether to wrap the gift or leave it unwrapped. Thank you for all of your support for this opportunity to brighten a child's life.

Memorials and Special Gifts

Please let the office know if you would like to give a gift this Christmas season in memory of a loved one. Your gifts help support a variety of missions and ministry programs here at Trinity. A list of our Memorial Funds can be found on our website under the Give Tab (click Memorials and Gifts), or a copy is available in the church office. For those who wish to honor a loved one with a Christmas Memorial, please have memorials to the church office by **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**.

Poinsettias

We will decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas season which are being purchased from the Clear Lake FFA. If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia (\$15.00) as a memorial (or in honor of a loved one), please get in touch with the church office by **Friday, December 13, 2024**. A limited number of poinsettias are available. They may be picked up on **Thursday, December 26, 2024**.

The 2025 Flower Calendar and Bulletin Calendar have been posted. If you'd like to honor a loved one, remember a birthday and/or an anniversary while enhancing Trinity's sanctuary for the celebration of worship, please consider donating altar flowers or colored bulletins for a weekend. Both calendars are located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Altar Flowers are \$45 and Bulletins are \$25.

TRINITY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

- 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated (*Family Friendly*)
Pastor Beverly Butler Preaching
- 1:30 p.m. Traditional Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated—Pastor Dan Gerrietts Preaching
- 4:00 p.m. Traditional Worship Service (*Family Friendly*)
(Livestreamed on Trinity's Facebook and YouTube pages)
Pastor Daniel Hanson Preaching
- 5:30 p.m. – Traditional Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated (*Family Friendly*)
Pastor Daniel Hanson Preaching
- 10:00 p.m. – Special Christmas Prelude
- 10:30 p.m. – Candlelight Worship Service—Holy Communion Celebrated—Pastor Dan Gerrietts Preaching
(Livestreamed on Trinity's Facebook and YouTube pages and on KCMR 97.9)

Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25—**No Service**

Our Mission *We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.*

