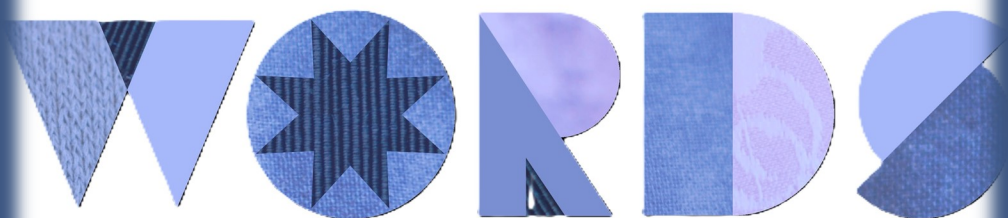


Third Sunday of Advent



FOR THE BEGINNING

— DO THE GOOD THAT —
IS YOURS TO DO

December 14-15, 2024



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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2024—5:00 p.m.

December 15, 2024—9:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9

2024 ADVENT SERIES: WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

Do the Good That Is Yours To Do

As John the Baptist is teaching about bearing good fruit, the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers ask him, "What, then, should we do?" His answer to each group is slightly different, but ultimately the same: "Do the good that is yours to do." We can each bear good fruit through acts of justice and righteousness. We can all be what Isaiah calls "repairers of the breach" by satisfying the needs of the afflicted.

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).

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.

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

Serving in Worship This Weekend

Pastor Pastor Dan Gerriets
Pastor Daniel Hanson
Pastor Beverly Butler

Organist Mark McClellan

Cantor Alli Day

Greeters Dennis & Anna Marie Wilson

Coffee Fellowship
Joann Johnson
Mike & Colleen Last

Advent Candle Lighting
5:00 p.m. Sally Becker & Earl Kiefer
9:00 a.m. Nathan and Linda Hunt & family

Scripture Readers
5:00 p.m. Sally Becker
9:00 a.m. Carol Dettmer

Communion Servers
5:00 p.m. Don & Nina Pals, Amy Dodge
9:00 a.m. Dan & Nancy Clarke

Acolytes Miles Hansen, Aden Swisher

Technical Support
Sophia Fitzgerald
Carter Rockwell

Worship Transportation
Dean Graven, Viv Heller

Ushers
5:00 p.m. John Barron, Stu Vold
9:00 a.m. Tracy Farland, Ray Gogel,
Bob Mason, Jake Rockman

Building Host
Jim Reisinger

GATHERING

Prelude (5pm)

Variations on “Veni Immanuel”

Pietro Yon

(9am)

Sounds of Christmas Night

Saxophone Quintet—Brian Bauer, Tom Birdsall, John Henry, Deb Nielsen, Craig Remmen

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting *(three candles are lighted)*

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

C Let us start small.

**Let us begin with what is right in front of us.
Let us do the good that is ours to do,
and let us do it with joy!**

L Yes, let us begin with joy.
Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

C May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights inspire action.

May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

L May it be so! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Friends, there are times when the weight of the world can feel so heavy on us.
Fortunately, when we come before God in confession, God removes that weight.
God sees our shame, our guilt, our sin, and offers us grace.
So join in the prayer of confession.
Come and allow yourself to be freed.
Come and allow yourself to begin again.
Let us pray:

C Liberating God,

There are days when the world can feel like it’s crumbling.

There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself,

What could these two hands do?

What could this one voice say?

Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.

Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.

I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.

With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

Amen.

P Friends, no matter how many times
we lose momentum,
doubt our own ability,
or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big,
God sees what we cannot.
God calls us by name,
surrounds us in grace,
and invites us to begin again.
Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

**C We are loved. We are forgiven.
We are invited to do the good that is ours to do.
Thanks be to God for this new beginning.
Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

Joy to the World

ELW 267

***Greeting**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Listening God,
We know that you are constantly speaking to us.
Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships,
you make yourself known again and again.
In gratitude, we long to return the favor.
In gratitude, we long to meet you halfway.
So in this moment,
we are quieting the noise in our heads.
We are closing our eyes.
We are leaning in.
We are listening.
We are doing the good that is ours to do.
Speak to us through the chaos.
Speak to us as only you can.
With hope in our hearts we listen, we pray,
Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-12

L If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
 and satisfy your needs in parched places
 and make your bones strong,
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water
 whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

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 third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

***Gospel Luke 3:7-16**

L ⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”
¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”
¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Sermon

Pastor Dan Gerrietts

Hymn of the Day

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 257

Vs.1-4

***Affirmation of Faith**

L John the Baptist’s followers once asked him, “What shall we do?”
Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

C In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:

Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.

Instead, hold fast to hope.

Roll up your sleeves.

Feed the hungry.

Tend the garden.

If you have two coats, give one away.

Do the good that is yours to do.

In doing so, you will see God.

For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.

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)


Keep Your Lamps
Trinity Choir, Mike Last—congas

by Andre Thomas

***Offertory**

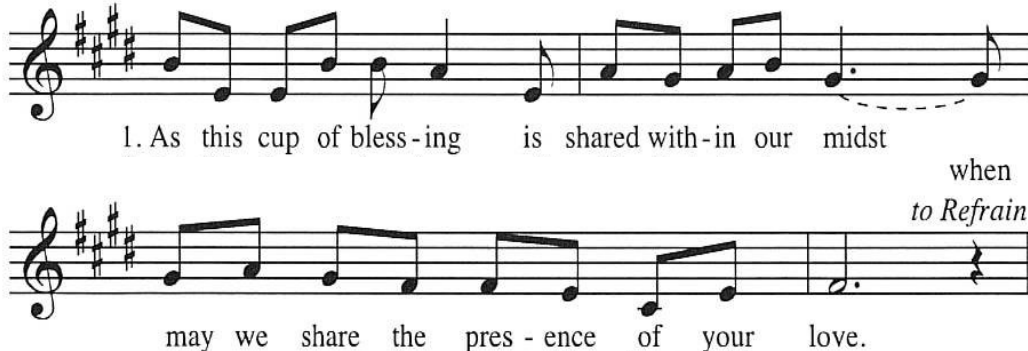
As the Grains of Wheat

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



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
when
to Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

***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. Ushers 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.

Lamb of God

Marty Haugen

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
 you break the chains of ha - tred and fear:
 you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
 you are the way of mer - cy and love.

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion (9am)

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

*Prayer after Communion

P Nourishing God,

Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again.

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.

We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.

And just like that, we have hope.

Just like that, we begin again.
Thank you for the gift of this fresh start.
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

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

*Sending

P Go in peace. Hold onto hope.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude (5pm)

Toccata in De Major

Jerry Davidson

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.



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

The **cover art for the bulletin** is given in honor of *Colleen Dutcher 97th Birthday* which is December 20th given by Mike, Jane, Nancy and their families.

YOUTH ADVENT BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, December 15

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. We will have some holiday fun including a gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped gift valued \$10 or less.

Fellowship Coffee Christmas Game Show Extravaganza

Tuesday, December 17 | 9:30 AM / Fellowship Hall

Come and join the holiday fun at Fellowship Coffee on Tuesday, December 17 at 9:30 a.m. The Trinity staff are hosting a Christmas Gameshow Extravaganza, featuring prizes and surprises. Christmas attire encouraged. Prepare for a merry and festive time together.

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service | Wednesday, December 18 | 5:00 PM / Fellowship Hall

Rejoicing Spirits is inclusive of all ages and abilities as we connect with God and one another. Join us to celebrate the birth of Christ through song, skit, prayer and servant project. Following the worship service, enjoy pizza and root beer floats for a free-will donation.

KCMR Devotions

Pastor Beverly Butler will providing the daily devotions on KCMR this next week—December 16-20.

Candle Lighting and Readers

Readings are short and simple - great for individuals or families!

We have a few spots left for December 21-22 and the Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 a.m.

See the sign up sheet posted by the church offices or call the office to sign up: 423-0536.

Sunday Morning Coffee Servers

Volunteering to serve coffee is fun, not too difficult, and it's a wonderful way to meet or catch up with the congregation and visitors. A member of the Ministries Committee is there to assist you. We have *openings from January to June 2025*, so whether you are new to volunteering for Sunday coffee or you have volunteered in the past, please sign up for a Sunday on the bulletin board by the church office.

**January, February and March
Christ in Our Home** Devotional
Books are available. Copies are
located by the church office and
welcome desk.

**Seeking the Manger- A Scripture
Escape Room**

Mary and Joseph have traveled to Bethlehem and need to find a place to stay. There is only one Inn in the city that has a manger for them to use for the arrival of baby Jesus. Solve the puzzles and riddles and lead Mary and Joseph to the manger before Mary has her baby. You will have 60 minutes to figure out which Inn has space for Mary and Joseph. This is a fun Christmas activity for families or groups of friends. This game is created for youth ages 10+ but younger children can play with help from parents. Ideal group size is 3-12 people. Room 219 in the Education Wing will be transformed into this escape room that resembles the city of Bethlehem. There are multiple slots open from Dec.15-29. Reserve your time slot today online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EACA828A2FEC16-52865011-nativity> If you need further assistance, contact the church office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer (Rm. 322)
9:00 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting (Offsite)
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, December 17

8-9:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee (Fellowship Hall)
10:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry (Rm. 307)
Noon Staff Meeting
4:00 p.m. Building & Grounds Comm. (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Rm. 300)
Ministries Committee (Gathering Space)
6:00 p.m. Generosity Committee (Rm.300)
Worship & Music Committee (Library)

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
2:00 p.m. Cancer Support Group (Rm. 300)
5:00 p.m. Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Advent Meal
6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Advent Service
7:00 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 19

8:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 21

10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Brass Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. **Worship Service**

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
NO Sunday School
10:30 a.m. **Worship Service**

WEDNESDAY—DEC. 18

Advent Meal—Will begin at 6:00 p.m.—Menu is: *Pizza, Salad, 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.

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Giving Tree

We still have *a few YSS North Iowa tags* on the Giving Tree. The Giving Tree is located near the East entrance Gifts for YSS do not need to be wrapped and can be returned by Dec. 31. The YSS staff will continue to distribute gifts until the end of the month. Thank you for all of your support for this opportunity to brighten a child's life.
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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.**

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.

BASES Exercise

There is NO exercise class on December 24, 26, and 31.

Young Adult Christmas Hangout - Friday, December 27th—4:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Young Adult Meetup event over Christmas! Trinity is inviting our 18-30 year olds to come and hang out at church on December 27th. This is a choose your own adventure event where you can pop in for one portion or more! We will have a variety of activities throughout the day including:

4:00 PM- *Nativity Themed Escape Room*

5:00 PM- *Christmas Games*

6:00 PM- *Appy Hour (An all appetizer dinner party)*

7:00 PM- *Movie*

9:00 PM- *Hang Out time*

Book Discussion

Monday, January 13 | 1:00 PM | The Gathering Space

Our next book is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell is a heartwarming novel that celebrates overcoming the unfairnesses of life." Multiple copies are available to check out from the Trinity Lutheran Church office.

2024 BAZAAR DONATIONS

Trinity's Scandinavian Bazaar (Nov. 6-7) was another great event full of fun, fellowship and fantastic food and crafts! This year's proceeds totaled more than \$23,000. Thank you to the 150+ volunteers who baked, crafted and donated items and volunteered and to all who came and enjoyed. As tradition, most of the proceeds from the Bazaar will be donated to partner ministries.

Beacon Warming Shelter	\$500.00	42 N. Iowa (Vocational & Transition)	\$1,000.00
High School Giving Tree	\$500.00	Northern Lights Homeless Shelter (men & women)	\$1,000.00
Community Kitchen	\$2,500.00		\$1,000.00
Crisis Intervention	\$500.00	Salvation Army (Adult Day Care)	\$500.00
Four Oaks	\$500.00	Sugar Plum Preschool	\$500.00
Food Bank (Hawkeye Harvest)		Sunday Van Ministry Transportation	
	\$2,500.00		\$1,000.00
Francis Lauer Youth Services		Welfare Fund	\$1,500.00
	\$500.00	Trinity Youth	\$750.00
Good Shepherd Phone Reassurance		WELCA Church Wide	\$600.00
	\$300.00	WELCA Synod	\$1,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00	Women's Ministry Cabinet	\$1,000.00
KCMR	\$1,000.00	Lutheran Services of Iowa	\$500.00
Kitchen Fund	\$2,000.00	World Hunger (ELCA)	\$750.00
Luth. World Relief Project Comfort (Postage)		Cheer Fund	\$500.00
	\$750.00		

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**

