

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 18

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Private Event, 1 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert, Handel's Messiah Sing
Along with the Chamber Choir of Grand
Rapids, 3 p.m.
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 19

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 20

Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Fitness Classes, 10 a.m.
Worship and Music Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

Midweek Advent Supper, 5:30 p.m.
The Longest Night Service, 6:30 p.m.
Pack 3015 Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 22

Fitness Classes, 10 a.m.
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, December 23

Christmas Eve Music Rehearsal, 8 a.m.

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 3 p.m.
(with live stream)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 9 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Carols & Communion Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Flowers for Worship This Morning

Today's Rejoice worship flowers are given by Steve and Brenda Heacock in loving memory of their daughter Kirsten Irene Heacock.

Eternal Light for Worship This Morning

Today's Eternal Light is given by Keith and Lisa Gohlke in memory of John Gohlke.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

8:00 a.m.

Sacristans: Chris and Beth Van Meter
Lector: Chas Schaner
Communion Assistants: Gloria Von der Heide,
Kim Brock
Ushers: Erick Kind, Chad and Jenna Mencarelli
Acolyte: Ellie Brandstadt, Helena Phillips

9:15 a.m.

Rejoice band leading worship
Sacristans: Don and Judy Otten
Lector: Steve Heacock
Communion Assistants: Sarah Huckstep
Lisa Postlewaite
Ushers: Carol and Dan Butler,
John Hall, Kathy Noble, Jim Willman
Acolytes: Sydney Waite, Clifford Morin

10:45 a.m.

Cantor: John Fox
Sacristans: Chris and Laura Norton
Lector: David Marquardt
Communion Assistants: Kris Fox, Dee Scales
Ushers: Steve Cairns, Paul Getzin, Joe and
Marybeth Iaria, Lois McCardell,
Jim Vanderwall
Acolytes: Daniel Ahrens, Oscar Heaford
Bread Baker: Carolyn Johnson

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness, hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery**: Sue Bailey, Mark Baker, Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, Bob Beaudry, Krysta Billock, Jim and Sue Boyse, Bill Brock, Pat Bruin, Pam Burkle, Cheryl Bushman, Mike Danielski, Donna Erickson, Ruth Ann Evans, Elias Frezghi, Eric Gohlke, Bob Guigue, Mark Hahn, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Patricia Johnson, Roy Lamprich, Lloyd and Allison Landon, Marilyn Leese, Jane Legault, Matthew Lohr, Tim Lundgren, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Carolyn McCready, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, John and Karin Moglia, Christophe Muganza, Charmayne Mulligan, Jo Murphy, Craig Mutch, Karen Nagle, Jesse Platt, Jacqueline Riegling, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Joyce Schenk, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Andrea Severns, Ella Severns, Luanna Seyffert, Michael Smith, Joan Start, Patricia Stevens, Franny Turnage, Gale Volkerding, John Walls, Robert Williams, Lisa Wiseman, Donna and Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, David Young, Kay Zeaman, Kathryn Zielinski and Cindy Zientarski.

We also lift up **Trinity families mourning the loss of loved ones**: George Bauer, Todd and Bonnie Brandstadt, Renee Brinks, Jennifer Brown, Bill and Patricia Bruin, Morgan and Jaci Cole, Jack Danielson, Sharon Fourcha, Eric Gohlke, Keith Gohlke, Bob and Nanci Guigue, Carol Hendricks, Linda Holm, Sarah and David Huckstep, John and Emily Keller, Terry and Susan Knoll, Ed and Joan Lohr, Dolly Lowe, David and Rebecca Marquardt, Mark and Rebecca Mattison, Matt and Lisa Mead, Craig and Patti Mutch, Tammy Parat, Kris Racek, Lee and Ann Schomberg, Doug and Joan Start, Linda Taffs, Gale and Dale Volkerding, Julie Williams, Phillip Youngman, and John and Missy Ziech.

We also lift up in prayer this week Pastor Jeffrey Bonn and the people of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Unionville, partners with us in mission and ministry in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

#257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (red book)
#265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (red book)
#248 People, Look East (red book)

DECEMBER 18, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Who is this Jesus born of God's love?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | Matthew 1:18-25 | God is with us |
| Monday | Isaiah 7:10-16 | A son named Immanuel |
| Tuesday | Romans 1:1-7 | A salutation |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 9:1-7 | A child is born |
| Thursday | 1 John 4:7-12 | God is love |
| Friday | Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 | Israel's restoration |
| Saturday | Luke 2:1-20 | The birth of Jesus |
| Sunday | John 1:1-14 | The Word became flesh |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, we praise you for reaching out to us and all the world with your eternal love through your Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us each day with the gift of food. Strengthen us with this meal to love others as you love us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of the world bless you with God's steadfast love.



DECEMBER 18, 2022

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Away in a Manger



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you think of a special friend or relative, how do you describe that person to others?
- When you think of Jesus, how do you describe him?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 1:18-25.

Since it speaks of Jesus' birth, this is almost an odd text for the last Sunday in Advent. It could be a Christmas Eve or Day writing, except that the focus is less on Jesus' birth and more on his identity: Who is this Jesus? He is divine (conceived by the Holy Spirit) yet also of the lineage of David (son of David, a title for the royal messiah). His role is seen in his name Jesus, meaning, "to save." His entrance into history is the fulfillment of scripture. Jesus' birth is prophetically linked to Isaiah 7 by the name Emmanuel, God with us. This essential point is brought back at the end of the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus says, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). It is worth reflecting on the coming of Jesus as the Son of God who comes to save and to fulfill the scriptures. This Jesus is not just a historical figure of the past but the very presence of God who is with us today. Jesus is present in the midst of our personal and community needs for salvation from sin, death, and the presence of real evil.

Discuss: What part of Jesus' identity do you focus on or relate to during the Advent season?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to sense the awe of Jesus' birth through whom you have come to be with us as our Savior and promise to be with us always. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others experience God's love and mercy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. For the fourth and last week of Advent, light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, the third candle of joy, and the fourth candle of love on the Advent wreath. This week, we focus on God's unconditional love for us and our love for one another.

Say: **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope, peace, joy, and love.**

