

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, December 3, 2023 — First Sunday of Advent

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 3

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.
High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School & Practice for
Children's Christmas Program, 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, December 4

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.
Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m.
Volunteer at In The Image, 1 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
Beyond Belief Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Medicaid/Medicare, 10 a.m.
Tai Chi for Arthritis, 10:15 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness Class, 9 a.m.
Outreach Committee Meeting, noon
Advent Midweek Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.
Advent Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 7

Christmas Program Setup, 9 a.m.
Medicare/Medicaid, 10 a.m.
Tai Chi for Arthritis, 10:15 a.m.
Oasis, 4:30 p.m.
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace and Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, December 8

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 9

Christmas Program Rehearsal, 10 a.m.
Christmas Tea, 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 10

IHN Week Begins

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Rejoice Worship (Beyond Belief band), 9:15 a.m.
High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship and Children's Christmas
Program, 10:45 a.m.
Stephen Ministry Continuing Education, 12:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Support Group, 1:30 p.m.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Jude Westra
Sacristan: Fred & Kathy Wilcox
Lector: Debbie Duckworth
Communion Assistants: Elaine Rongey,
Marcia Schaner
Ushers: Bill Bailey, John Potter, Joel Westra
Acolyte: TBD

9:15 a.m.

Rejoice band leading worship
Sacristan: Steve Heacock
Lector: Gail Mazurek
Communion Assistants: Dave & Chris Straw
Ushers: Todd Brandstadt, Ethan Guis, Lisa Mead,
Ed Lohr
Acolytes: Daniel Ahrens, Maggie Coles, Clifford Morin

10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Steve Feutz
Sacristan: Lois McCardell
Lector: Sue Coates
Communion Assistants: Cindy Zientarski,
Linda Taffs
Ushers: David, Bergen, and Theo Marquardt,
Brad Kessel, Dorothy Postema, Scott Stoll
Acolytes: TBD

Bread Baker: Carrie Lamb and Jesca Westra

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness, hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery**: Nancy Anderson, Dan Babin, Sue Bailey, Dale and Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, Ben Battreall, Bob Beaudry, David Benkert, Jim and Sue Boyse, Bryan Bredwell, Pat Bruin, Ellie Buggeln, Dan Butler, Mike and Kim Danielski, Angela Davis, Gordy Engstrom, Donna Erickson, Joyce Fick, Diane Field, Diane Flatt, Jack Frick, Richard Gehl, Elena Griewahn, Elwyn Griewahn, Mark Hahn, Beth Hall, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Patricia Johnson, Grace Lanning, John and Marilyn Leese, Jane Legault, Kristin Linkfield, Ken Lown, Tess Lundgren, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Jill and Peter McKinney, Stephanie McLeod, Marilyn Mellema, Charmayne Mulligan, Craig Mutch, Laura Norton, Toni Peterson, Julia Pfeiffle, Jesse Platt, Dorothy Postema, Rick Radke, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Pam Sellers, Bob Sielaff, Michael Smith, Dave Smoes, Rebecca Ulrich, Joanna Waite, John Walls, Fred and Kathy Wilcox, Robert Williams, Rick and Michelle Wolner, David Young, Kay Zeaman, and Kathryn Zielinski.

We also lift up **Trinity families mourning the loss of loved ones**: Maria Ashimine, Greg and Rachele Battreall, Carrie and David Boer, Beverly and John Bosserman, Liz and Jason Coles, Jack Danielson, Julie Earhart, David and Pastor Kari Fast, Jon Ferguson, Diane Field, Josh and Katie Gardner, Brad and Gayl Kessel, Susan and Terry Knoll, Joni and Steve Korb, Beth Krueger, Kristen Lamprich, Kent and Kristin Linkfield, Wendy and Jim Mielock, Dave and Julie Murray, Patrick and Jacquie Murray, Craig and Patti Mutch, Debbie and John Potter, Kathy Sommers, Jonathan and Jennifer Sommers, Sylvia and Bill Stouten, Linda Taffs, Wollen/Billings families and Natalie Yeager.

We also lift up in prayer this week for Pastor Alexander Steward and the people of Lutheran Church of the Savior in Kalamazoo, partners with us in ministry North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Mark 13:24-37

#246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! (red book)
#266 All Earth Is Hopeful (red book)
#436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (red book)

DECEMBER 3, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:13-16	A call to holy living
Thursday	Psalms 147:7-11	Praise for God's care
Friday	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	The Thessalonians' faith
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Restore us. O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of awesome power, give us hearts filled with hope and gladness as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for food and drink that gives us strength for the day and hope for the future through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord's face shine on you with hope through Christ Jesus.



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DECEMBER 3, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Come Now, O Prince of Peace



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:

- As you look to the future, what are some of your hopes?
- God came to us in the form of baby Jesus. How did this bring us hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 64:1-9.

Advent is a season of hope, that is, waiting and longing for what is not yet present. It is more than a season; it is a way of life for God's people. This is dramatically seen in Isaiah 64. We want the sense of awe to witness the presence of God that descends from the heavens above. It is as grand as mountains quaking and nations trembling. The divide is vast that separates us from the righteousness and power of God because of our brokenness, our sin. Our hope is not in our goodness but in the everlasting love of God who remembers us like a parent caring for a child. In Jesus we see our hope in God realized. As our God descends in the form of a babe, we hope and believe God has not forgotten us or left us to our own self-destructive ways. We are left in awe at the love and goodness of God that we not only see in Bethlehem, but also at the end of time when we witness *"the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory"* (Mark 13:26). Hope with a sense of awe is healthy for daily life and for our faith in God in Christ.

Discuss: What do you hope for during this Advent season as we await Christ's coming?

Pray: **Almighty God, your glory is seen in all that you do; give us eyes to see the hope we are given through the coming of Jesus as a baby and as the Son of Man at the end of time. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone to live with hope in the future?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Make an Advent wreath and decorate it with evergreens. Place four candles on the wreath. Place the wreath on a counter or table where you can gather each week during Advent to light the candles. The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week, we light one candle, the candle of hope. Think or talk about what hope you imagine when you read Psalm 80:3: *"Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved."* Light the first candle of hope and say: ***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*** (John 1:5)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org