

# Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, December 10, 2023 — Second Sunday of Advent

## This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

### Sunday, December 10

*IHN Week Begins*

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.  
Rejoice Worship (Beyond Belief band), 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.  
High School Youth Service Day, 1 p.m.  
Stephen Ministry Peer Support Group, 1:30 p.m.

### Monday, December 11

*IHN Onsite*

*The Messenger Deadline*

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.  
Schubert Male Chorus Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 12

*IHN Onsite*

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.  
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Tai Chi for Arthritis, 10:15 a.m.  
Care & Share, 10:30 a.m.  
Communications Committee Meeting, noon  
Worship and Music Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 13

*IHN Onsite*

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness Class, 10 a.m.  
JOYful Days Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 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 14

*IHN Onsite*

Medicare/Medicaid, 10 a.m.  
Tai Chi for Arthritis, 10:15 a.m.  
Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.  
Choosing Peace and Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.  
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

### Friday, December 15

*IHN Onsite*

Friday Morning Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
Scandinavian Smörgåsbord Food Prep, 3 p.m.

### Saturday, December 16

*IHN Onsite*

Celebration of Music Concert Series Rehearsal, 9 a.m.  
Celebration of Life - Roy Lamprich, 3 p.m.  
Scandinavian Smörgåsbord, 5:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 17

*IHN Week Concludes*

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.  
Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.  
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

## Baptism Today

Today at 9:15 a.m. we welcome Eli Arthur Hrusa into the Body of Christ by the waters of Holy Baptism. Eli is the son of Adam and Lauren Hrusa and his sponsors are Lindsay Anne Stearns and Ben Petrous.

## Assisting in Worship This Morning

### 8:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Cathy Olson  
Lector: Sheila Talsma  
Communion Assistants: Chris & Elizabeth Van Meter  
Ushers: Dale Barkema, Elaine Rongey,  
Gloria Von der Heide  
Acolyte: Edmund Van Meter, Ethan Schaefer

### 9:15 a.m.

Beyond Belief band leading worship  
Sacristan: Steve Stephan  
Lector: Kathy Noble  
Communion Assistants: Marge Willman,  
Cindy Zientarski  
Ushers: Dave & Carrie Boer, Jeff Postlewaite  
Mark Hagbom & Sally Mahoney, Mark Baker  
Acolytes: Layla and Lilly Lothschutz

### 10:45 a.m.

Sacristan: John & Elizabeth Derbin  
Lector: Kris Fox  
Communion Assistants: Brenda Baker, Kara Day  
Ushers: Jim & Sue Coates, John Derbin, Don Kishman,  
Tom Mannisto, Jamie Norris, Dee Scales,  
Wayne Snyder  
Acolytes: Tristan Derbin, Katarina Lundgren

Bread Bakers: 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, Carol Asfour, Sue Bailey, Dale and Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, Bob Beaudry, David Benkert, Krysta Billock, 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, Beth Hall, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Patricia Johnson, Grace Lanning, John and Marilyn Leese, Bob Leese, Jane Legault, Ken Lown, Tess Lundgren, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Jill and Peter McKinney, Stephanie McLeod, Marilyn Mellema, Craig Mutch, Laura Norton, Julia Pfeiffle, Jesse Platt, Dorothy Postema, Rick Radke, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Pam Sellers, Bob Sielaff, 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, John and Kris Fox, 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, 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 Pastors Ken Johnson and Jacob Lehman and the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, partners with us in ministry North/ West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

## Readings & Hymns for December 3

Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	Mark 1:1-8

#264	Prepare the Royal Highway (red book)
#254	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (red book)
#239	Hark, the Glad Sound! (red book)

DECEMBER 10, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God brings peace and forgiveness.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news
Monday	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort my people
Tuesday	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Promise of the Lord's coming
Wednesday	Matthew 5:9	Blessed are the peacemakers
Thursday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in a storm
Friday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Let Zion rejoice
Saturday	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	A prayer for God's peace
Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.*

Isaiah 40:1-2 (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to rely on you above all things that our lives may find rest and peace through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; we pray for a fair distribution of the fruit of the earth that all may have enough to eat. In Jesus' name, amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God give you peace. (Psalm 85:10)



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DECEMBER 10, 2023

## HYMN OF THE WEEK



*He Came Down*

## 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:

- Think or talk about a time when you experienced peace.
- When have you felt God's peace in your life?

## DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 1:1-8.

The first line in Mark, "*The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,*" serves as a title for the entire gospel writing. That title and that announcement of good news is the source of all the peace we can want. Mark's Gospel does not present a peace that is simply life without struggles. The peace of God that comes with the good news of Jesus involves struggle, cleansing, and letting go of one's own innocence or purity. The peace that Jesus brings, and John the Baptist introduces, involves a "*repentance for the forgiveness of sins*" (v. 4). The peace that Jesus brings—and continues to bring throughout our lives—is the freeing power to let go of an understanding of being able to make it on one's own or of being better than others. Worship services often begin with statements of confession and forgiveness. This offers a peace where we need not hide from the hurts and brokenness of our lives and world. It is the peace that rests on the goodness of God in Christ for us and for all.

Discuss: How does confession and forgiveness give you peace?

Pray: **God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we thank you for coming to us again and again that we may know your forgiving power and have peace through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 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 extend the peace of God to someone?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath. The second candle is the candle of peace. Think or talk about how the words of Psalm 85, a prayer for restoration, bring us peace: "*Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*" Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace 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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)