

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, December 17, 2023 — Third Sunday of Advent

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

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.

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Book Club, 7 p.m.
Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.
Celebration of Music Concert - VOXmas, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

Power Bend & Stretch Fitness Class, 10 a.m.
Advent Midweek Supper, 5:30 p.m.
Advent Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
Pack 3015 Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 21

Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace and Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.
Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 23

Rehearsal, 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Rejoice Worship (Beyond Belief band), 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, 3 p.m.
(livestreamed)
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, 5 p.m.
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, 9 p.m.

Flowers for Worship This Morning

Today's Rejoice worship flowers are given today by Steve and Brenda Heacock in loving memory of their daughter, Kirsten, who would have turned 40 today.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

8:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Elaine Rongey
Lector: Marcia Schaner
Communion Assistants: Gloria Von der Heide,
Sue Wait
Ushers: Erick Kind, Chad & Jenna Mencarelli
Acolyte: Ethan Schaefer

9:15 a.m.

Rejoice band leading worship
Sacristan: Kim Hysell
Lector: Kathy Noble
Communion Assistants: Kim Hysell, Gail Mazurek
Ushers: Mike Bishop, Dan & Carol Butler, John Hall,
Kathy Noble, Jim Willman
Acolytes:

10:45 a.m.

Sacristan: Beth Vanderwall
Lector: Jim Coates
Communion Assistants: Kate and Kai Bredwell
Ushers: Steve Cairns, Wayne Snyder, Lois McCardell,
Joe & Marybeth Iaria, Jim Vanderwall
Acolytes: Steven Unruh
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**: Bill Ahrens, Nancy Anderson, Carol Asfour, Sue Bailey, Dale Barkema, Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, David Benkert, Krysta Billock, Sue Boyse, Pat Bruin, Dan Butler, Mike Danielski, Kim Danielski, Angela Davis, Gordy Engstrom, Diane Field, Diane Flatt, Jack Frick, Richard Gehl, Elena Griewahn, Elwyn Griewahn, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Mary Johnson, Patricia Johnson, Grace Lanning, John Leese, Marilyn Leese, Bob Leese, Jane Legault, Ken Lown, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Stephanie McLeod, Marilyn Mellema, Craig Mutch, Laura Norton, Julia Pfeiffle, Jesse Platt, Rick Radke, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Pam Sellers, Bob Sielaff, Dave Smoes, Joanna Waite, John Walls, Fred and Kathy Wilcox, Robert Williams, Rick Wolner, Michelle Wolner, David Young, Kathy 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 Zachary Nelson and the people of Bethany Lutheran Church in Kaleva, partners with us in ministry North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Psalms 126	John 1:6-8, 19-28

#248	People, Look East (red book)
#901	Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (purple book)
#251	My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (red book)

DECEMBER 17, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Faith in Jesus brings joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Good news of deliverance
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
Wednesday	Luke 1:39-55	The Magnificat
Thursday	Psalms 30	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Friday	James 1:2-4	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 126	A people who dream
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." Psalm 126:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, in you we find our hope, peace, and joy; during times of sadness and grief, give us faith to trust in your never-failing love through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us strength to witness to your love and goodness through Jesus Christ, the one who has come to give us joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of peace give you joy at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)



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DECEMBER 17, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World



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 something that has brought you joy.
- When have you experienced joy with others in the Christian community?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 126.

The psalm begins with a reference to Israel's return from exile. It was too good to be true, but it was true. It was like a dream, but it was real. Relying on that memory, the people once again seek God's intervention: *"Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb"* (v. 4). The *wadis* are dry riverbeds (watercourses) in the south of Israel (Negeb) that look barren until they are filled with flash floods. Then living waters overflow the riverbanks. Psalm 126 poetically seeks a similar and dramatic restoration for God's life-giving powers to restore God's people. We are encouraged by the history of God's favor that reaches us again and again, now through Jesus. Psalms like this one strengthen us, trusting that the God who came in Jesus will continue to intervene in our lives with grace. Verse six describes a life of faith. We know what it is to mourn, but our life is meant for joy. In the meantime, we go out with our task at hand, seeds to be sown in faith, ready for a harvest of joy.

Discuss: How does faith in Christ lead you to live a life of joy?

Pray: **God of our past and future, give us faith to dream dreams filled with faith, hope, and love that our daily lives may know the eternal joy of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. 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 support and encourage someone who is mourning?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light three candles on the Advent wreath. The third candle is the candle of joy. Psalm 126 describes the Israelites' joy and thanksgiving to God upon their return to Jerusalem after their exile in Babylon: *"Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy."* Think or talk about how God brings joy in good times and bad times.

Light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy 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