

# Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, December 24, 2023 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

## This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

### 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.

### Monday, December 25

*Christmas Day, Office Closed*

### Tuesday, December 26

Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 27

Visitation—Jack Frick, 10 a.m.

Memorial Service for Jack Frick, 11 a.m.

Luncheon to follow

### Thursday, December 28

Choosing Peace and Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, December 31

*New Year's Eve*

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.

## Save the Date!

### Sunday, January 21

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Potluck, noon

### Sunday, January 28

Kids Coalition Against Hunger Meal Packing, 10:15 a.m.

## Assisting in Worship This Morning

### 9:15 a.m.

Beyond Belief band leading worship

Sacristan: Steve Stephan

Lector: Gail Mazurek

Communion Assistants: Steve Stephan, Kris Baker

Ushers: Mark Baker, Lisa Mead, Steve Bennett

Acolytes:



## Assisting in Christmas Eve Worship Services

### 3 p.m.

Sacristan: John & Elizabeth Derbin, Joanna Waite

Lector: Linda Taffs

Communion Assistants: Joanna Waite, Mike Mason

Ushers: TBD

Acolytes: Lucas and Claire Robach, Delia DeBoer

### 5 p.m.

Sacristan: Steve Stephan

Lector: Kathy Noble

Communion Assistants: Bill & Kathy Bush

Ushers: Steve, Amy, and Charlotte Stephan

Acolytes: Layla and Lily Lothschutz

### 7 p.m.

Sacristan: John & Elizabeth Derbin

Lector: Doug Haneline

Communion Assistants: John & Elizabeth Derbin

Ushers: Bob Carwell, Brad Kessel, Joel Westra

Acolytes:

### 9 p.m.

Sacristan: Jo Murphy

Lector: Debra Freeberg

Communion Assistants: Jo Murphy, Tim Lundgren

Ushers: Caitlin & Colin Finch, Joe & Marybeth Iaria

Acolytes: Alaina and Katarina Lundgren, Emily Albaitis

## Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness,**

**hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery:** Sue Bailey, Dale Barkema, Lisa Barkema, Don Barsema, David Benkert, Krysta Billock, Bev Block, Ken Block, Sue Boyse, Pat Bruin, Dan Butler, Mike Danielski, Kim Danielski, Angela Davis, Gordy Engstrom, Diane Field, Diane Flatt, 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, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Stephanie McLeod, Laura Norton, Julia Pfeiffle, Jesse Platt, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Bob Sielaff, Dave Smoes, Joanna Waite, John Walls, 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:** Albert Asfour, 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, Mary Frick, 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 Michael Conklin and the people of Mamrelund Lutheran Church in Kent City, partners with us in ministry North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

## Readings & Hymns for December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER 24, 2023  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Mary finds favor through God's love.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	<b>The birth of Jesus foretold</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</b>	<b>The Lord's message to David</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 16:25-27</b>	<b>Paul's closing prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</b>	<b>The gift of love</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 36</b>	<b>Wickedness and God's goodness</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 John 4:16-21</b>	<b>God is love</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26</b>	<b>God's promise to David</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 2:22-40</b>	<b>Jesus presented in the temple</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Everlasting God, your ways are unsearchable and your love never ending; give us the faith to trust in your Son, child of Mary, and Savior of the World. Amen.

#### **Mealtimes Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food; give us faith and courage to speak of your steadfast love to all generations. In Jesus' name, amen. (Psalm 89:1)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God's grace bless you with faith and love.



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DECEMBER 24, 2023

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Love Has Come*



### 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:

- If an angel appeared and told you something, would you believe it? Why or why not?
- How does God's love influence your life?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Luke 1:26-38.

When God's love showers down upon us, it can really turn our lives upside down. That's certainly what happened to Mary. The angel Gabriel announced that she was favored by God and would bear a son who would inherit the throne of King David. Mary was given promises that would seem hard to believe, let alone understand. She was perplexed, to say the least. She had no husband. In her community bearing a child without a husband was nothing less than shameful. Bearing a child in those days was one of the most dangerous events that could happen to a woman. Being ostracized by her neighbors, looking at the prospect of pain, and the possibility of death does not seem like divine favor. This is a story filled with risk, danger, confusion, extreme drama, and surprise. Amid it all, Mary responds with her own act of trust and love and says, "[L]et it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the embodiment of a faithful disciple, one who trusts the amazing love of God for her and for all.

*Discuss:* Do you think Mary's response to Gabriel is surprising?

*Pray:* **All knowing God, help us to receive your undeserved kindness with courage and love through Jesus Christ, child of Mary, your Son and our Savior. 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 share the good news of Jesus' birth with someone?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light all four candles on the Advent wreath. The fourth candle is the candle of love. Psalm 89 is a praise song to God for all creation: "I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations." Think or talk about the ways we respond to God's great love for us through Jesus.

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