

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Baptism of Our Lord

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 7

Clean Start Appeal continues

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.

High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.

Middle School Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, January 8

The Messenger Deadline

Stephen Leaders Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Schubert Male Chorus Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Oasis Team Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Property Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.

Rejoice Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Congregation Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Oasis Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9

LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.

Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

Fitness Class, 10 a.m.

Odyssey of the Mind, 6 p.m.

Thursday, January 11

Resound Bell Rehearsal 6 p.m.

Choosing Peace and Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.

Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, January 12

Friday Morning Women's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 13

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Liturgical Drama Workshop, 11 a.m.

Bunco Game Night & Potluck, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 14

Clean Start Appeal continues

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.

Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education, 12:30 p.m.

Stephen Ministry Peer Support Group, 1:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.

Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.



Assisting in Worship This Morning

8 a.m.

Sacristans: Elaine Rongey

Lector: Gloria Von der Heide

Communion Assistants: Dale Barkema, Kim Brock

Ushers: Bill Bailey, John Potter, Joel Westra

Acolytes: Jude Westra

9:15 a.m.

Beyond Belief band leading worship

Sacristan: Lisa Mead

Lector: Josh Gardner

Communion Assistants: Kathy Bush, Ed Lohr

Ushers: Todd Brandstadt, Ethan Guis, Ed Lohr,

Lisa Mead

Acolytes: TBD

10:45 a.m.

Cantor: Hannah DeBoer

Sacristan: Dolly Lowe

Lector: John Fox

Communion Assistants: Jim & Sue Coates

Ushers: David, Bergen, and Theo Marquardt,

Brad Kessel, Dorothy Postema, Scott Stoll

Acolytes: TBD

Bread Baker: Dawn Brackmann and Kris Fox

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, Kris Fox, Richard Gehl, Elena Griewahn, Elwyn Griewahn, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Mary Johnson, Patricia Johnson, Grace Lanning, John Leese, Marilyn Leese, Bob Leaser, 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 Pastor Timothy Jahn and people of Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, partners with us in mission and ministry in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for January 7

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

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| #994 | The Night You Gave Us, God, Has Ended
(purple book) |
| #448 | This Is the Spirit's Entry Now (red book) |
| #543 | Go, My Children, with My Blessing (red book) |

JANUARY 7, 2024
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



God reaches out to us through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	God creates light
Tuesday	Acts 19:1-7	Paul baptizes in Ephesus
Wednesday	Matthew 28:16-20	The commissioning of the disciples
Thursday	Psalms 145:14-21	The Lord is kind and merciful
Friday	1 John 3:11-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in the storm
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And just as he [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

Mark 1:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heaven and earth, we thank you for reaching out to us through Jesus' baptism so that your Spirit may rest on all of us with forgiveness and grace. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, you care for all that you create. We thank you for your power and glory that provides us food from the earth so that we may live in peace. Amen. (Psalm 29)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit bless you as God's beloved child.



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JANUARY 7, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

I'm Going on a Journey



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:

- Talk or reflect on a baptism that you witnessed.
- Do you believe that baptism is a life-changing event? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 1:4-11.

Jesus' baptism takes place in the context of a very important scene. John the baptizer is preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Huge crowds are drawn out to the wilderness to listen to John, where he baptizes and cleanses them from their broken lives. It is a time of truth telling that touches many lives. This happens in the wilderness, not in the center of political, economic, or religious powers like Jerusalem. It's a place on the edge, a place of vulnerability where surviving is not easy. Jesus' baptism happens in a life and death setting filled with hope for the future. After his baptism, Jesus sees the heavens torn apart and a divine voice announces Jesus as God's Son and the Beloved (v. 11). In Jesus, God is coming down from heaven to be with us through the Spirit that descended to be with Jesus, and through Jesus, to be with us. Jesus' baptism is the first story in the Gospel, and, therefore, has particular importance. It reveals God coming into our world through Jesus, the Son of God, bringing forgiveness and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Discuss: How has God "come down" into your life?

Pray: **Loving God, you who reach out to us through Jesus and his baptism in the wilderness, give us confidence to trust that you have come for us with forgiveness and grace. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you help someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Christian baptism ushers in a new life in Christ that involves daily repentance and forgiveness. To emphasize the daily renewal we experience in baptism, begin the day by making the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your heart and say: **"In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I am a beloved child of God."**



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