

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Online Worship Service • November 29, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

First Sunday of Advent



Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Thank you for joining us online as a new way of connecting to God's word as we transition during this time of social distancing to protect ourselves and others.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Tina if you need help in any way during this time. Her phone number is listed below. Just know that she is only a phone call away.



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor

Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15

Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12

(Times are sometimes flexible with monthly meetings,
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)

William C. Solomon, Interim Organist

Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

www.trinitylutheran-nn.com

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Cover image by JoAnne Rawls

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *

Holy One, healer of the world,
shed your light upon this world.

Holy One, healer of brokenness,
make us bold to share your light with others.

Holy One, healer of the world, we offer our prayers:

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Lead us to wholeness
and make us shine with your light of healing love.

O Come, O Come Emanuel (stanza 1)

ELW 257

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the God, Father, + Son , and Holy Spirit whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor;

we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back
 and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
 May you be strengthened in God's love,
 + comforted by Christ's peace,
 and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

Continued

lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
 as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
 From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
 You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (read responsively)

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at

midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Chat

Pastor Tina

Sermon

Pastor Tina

Hymn of the Day

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439

Musical notation for stanza 1 of the hymn 'Soon and Very Soon'. The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,

Musical notation for stanza 2 of the hymn 'Soon and Very Soon'. The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,

Musical notation for stanza 3 of the hymn 'Soon and Very Soon'. The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King.

Musical notation for the final stanza of the hymn 'Soon and Very Soon'. The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. A bracket above the music indicates it applies to stanzas 1, 2, and 3.

Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4

Musical notation for the coda of the hymn 'Soon and Very Soon'. The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Hal - le - lu - - jah, hal - le - lu - -

Musical notation for the final part of the coda of the hymn 'Soon and Very Soon'. The music is in common time with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

jah, hal - le - lu - - jah, hal - le - lu - - jah.

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Portions of the Advent wreath liturgy taken from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, posted online at the The Deacon's Bench. <http://deaconsbench.wordpress.com/files-and-forms/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ...

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: The next Bible Study will be on **Tuesday, December 1 at 10:30 a.m.** A Zoom invitation will be emailed. If you would like to join this group, please let Pastor Tina or Anne know (245-7861). All are welcome!

Worship and Music Committee Meeting: On Tuesday, December 1, there will be a Worship and Music meeting at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Poinsettias: All those who have email should have received the poinsettia form which was sent out on November 23. We had to place our order with Pollard's in advance just as we did the Easter lilies. Therefore, 30 poinsettias were preordered. First come, first served.

Theology on Tap: The next Theology on Tap discussion via Zoom will be on **Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Tina usually picks a topic and we think about and discuss our feelings about the topic. Please join us!

Advent Devotionals: Thanks to all who submitted their Advent devotionals.

YOUTH NEWS

During this difficult time in the world: The church and school will be actively working in tandem on a number of outreach projects. The first of these is collecting canned food and pet food to go to local charities and pet shelters. Thanks to all who donated items for the Blessing Bags for the Hilton Area Churches collection.

VANCO Online giving: An Important Note For Congregation Members and Friends -

For your convenience, the Church Council and Finance Committee have arranged to provide an optional online donation service for congregation members, friends and visitors with Vanco Payment Services, the ELCA-recommended electronic donation service. Through this service, you may donate from your checking or savings account or with a credit or debit card. Of course, you may also continue to donate through whatever other methods work best for you.

The procedure is very user-friendly. Just go to Trinity's website, <http://www.trinitylutherann.com> (see below), and click on the green "online giving" link on the homepage.

Being able to send your offering donations electronically is especially important during the current pandemic, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to support the ongoing work of the church easily and from the comfort of home.

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

Procedure for online giving:

Go to <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/>

Press the green "online giving" link.

PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Pending surgery: Ed Matz (November 17); **Recovery at home:** Jeff Belote, Rick Daggy; **Nursing Homes:** Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131); Betty Hasel (The Newport, Rm 14); Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.206); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); Buddy Schultz (Commonwealth Senior Living at Hampton, Rm. 503 Memory Care Unit, 1030 Topping Lane, Hampton, VA, 23666); **Shut-in at Home:** Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris Moeser.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: The Ahlen Family, Paige Ahlen and Maria Goldsby, requested by Kathy Stevens; Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (friend), Mike Muskalla (former member) and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend), requested by Patricia Fielding; Charlotte Rogers and Tina McManama, requested by Richard and Sandra Anderson; Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother), requested by the Ardis family; Jack and Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sisters), requested by Grant and Donna Owens; Bonnie Carlson, requested by Dave Carlson; the friends and family of Rlou Baum (mother of Wendy Kowalski), requested by Jessica Moye; Jacque and Harry Hartman, requested by Nancy Lindfors; Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker), requested by Patricia Wessler; George Kingston, requested by Sandy and John Lunsford; Michael May, requested by Jon May; Bobbie Morgan, requested by Anne Obara; Erik, Kelly, Nathan and Andrew Rummel; Anna Percell, Keegan and Rob Wise; Jan Titus (sister-in-law), requested by Glen and Betty Titus; Baby Rosalyn and her mother, Jessica, requested by Laura Davis.

Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty: James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.



Things you and your family can do for The First Sunday in Advent

1. ***Make your own Advent Wreath** - arrange some artificial or fresh greenery on a table. Place four candles in, on or around the greenery and one large candle or different candle to exemplify the Christ Candle on the night Jesus was born. Light one of the candles at the same time Pastor Tina does the lighting of the candle during the service.
2. ****Place seasonal books**, story books, devotional and other materials in a basket.
3. **Bring out your creche** or make your own. For those who are participating in

children's Sunday School, there will be one you can color, cut out and display. It will be coming to you soon.

4. *****Light your Christmas tree, but do not decorate it yet!** Before decorating, recall the fact that God has blessed you with LIFE and that, just as the tree is evergreen, God's love for us is UNENDING and never changes. As each ornament is placed on the tree, have the family member placing it share a particular personal or family blessing that has been received during the past year. Once the tree has been completely trimmed, plug in the lights and read this prayer together:

O God, you made light shine out of darkness. Bless this tree that we decorated with lights in honor of Jesus Christ who has come to bring light to us. This Advent season, help us to show your light I our faces and be happy, radiant, and loving people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Enjoy a simple treat after decorating . . .

****Recipe: Cinnamon Bells**

1 tbsp. ground cinnamon

Cut the bread with the cookie cutter.

2 tbsps. sugar

Toast with butter.

Several slices of hot buttered toast

Mix the cinnamon and sugar together.

Cookie Cutter - Christmas Bell

Sprinkle the mixture on the hot buttered toast

Sources for Things to Do for the First Sunday in Advent:

*Kathy Bessom Stevens and family

***The Greatest Christmas Ever: A Treasury of Inspirational Ideas and Insights for an Unforgettable Christmas; Copyright 1995 by Honor Books, Inc., Tulsa, OK*

***Excerpts from: *Family Ideas for Advent* By Multiple Contributors; <https://www.faithward.org/family-ideas-for-advent/>