

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Online Worship Service • December 13, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

Third Sunday of Advent



“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

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 victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. 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 4)

ELW 257

**O come, O Branch of Jesse,
free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Psalm 126 (read responsively)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of

prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Children's Chat

Pastor Tina

Sermon

Pastor Tina



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
 down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
 shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 and with words of love draw near.
 while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Portions of the Advent wreath liturgy taken from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, posted online at *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 15 at 10:30 a.m.** A Zoom invitation will be emailed.

Blue Christmas Worship Service: On Wednesday, **December 16 at 6:30 p.m.**, we will have our annual Blue Christmas on Facebook LIVE. The service will be focused on loss. All are welcome to join us for this first of the three Christmas services that are planned. More on that to follow.

Update: Usher Training First and foremost, a huge word of thanks to all of you who have responded to our call out for ushers as we seek to put in place a plan to return safely to in person worship. It is immensely appreciated that we have folks who are willing to volunteer their time and efforts to help us make worship at Trinity safe and welcoming for all.

At church council this month, we looked over the current Covid situation, particularly in our area, and we have decided to delay usher training for the time being. We are hoping to reschedule for some time in mid-January once we have a better outlook on things and hopefully come down from the current upswing we are in.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact the church office or Pastor Tina.

Once again, thank you all for your time and patience as we continue to walk through this year together.

December Drive-by Communion: Our next drive-by communion will be held on Sunday, **December 20 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.** for **all area groups**. Please continue to adhere to the current COVID guidelines by wearing a mask and not getting out of your car.

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!

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.

Worship and Music Committee Meeting: Next Worship and Music committee meeting is January 5 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom..

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.trinitylutheran-nn.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: **Recovery at home:** Anne Evans; **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.207); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); **Shut-in at Home:** Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris Moeser.

New Address for Pete Mizelle as of 12-11-2020: 690 Castle Rock Drive, Banner Elk, NC, 28604 and new cell phone number 828-783-9262 as of December 11.

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 (and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend),** requested by Patricia Fielding; **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; **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; **Jan Titus (sister-in-law),** requested by Glen and Betty Titus; **Baby Rosalyn and her mother, Jessica,** requested by Laura Davis; **Brian Moore,** requested by

Karoline Ardis and Anne Obara; **Betty Hasel (COVID); Paul Sawarringim (COVID); Millie Christensen (COVID); Charles Kessler (COVID exposure); David Hampton (husband of Sandy Hampton); and the friends and family of Karen Dutton (mother of Kristen Turnage).**

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.

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of William Jerome “Buddy” Schultz upon his passing on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, in Hampton, VA. A memorial service was held at Weymouth Funeral on Friday, December 11, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. followed by an inurnment service held at 4:00 p.m. at the Trinity Columbarium for the family. Please keep Ellen, Al, Marie, Christopher and Samuel Molina, as well as Kenny and Ann Schultz in your thoughts and prayers. “Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

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

1. **Third candle lighting on your Advent Wreath** - In preparation, light two candles on your wreath and when Pastor Tina lights the candle on the church wreath, Sunday morning, you light a third candle on your wreath. The first symbolizes **hope**, the second candle, **peace**, the third candle, **joy**.
2. **Read your devotion for the day** and perhaps discuss this devotion or maybe draw a picture to go with the devotion.
3. ***Make a gratitude ornament.** Here is the link to the instructions and download of different ornaments: https://catchat.ca/images/CatChat_Gratitude_Tree_Ornaments.pdf
4. ****The meaning of the Advent Wreath:** check out this brief Catholic video - <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/videos/advent/advent-wreath/> . Which of these Catholic symbols are the same as Lutherans and which are different? Do you know?
5. "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." - *Pope Benedict XVI*

Enjoy a simple treat if you are still decorating or watching a holiday movie . . .

*****Recipe: Holiday Pecan Crunch**

2 cups all-purpose flour

Into large bowl, measure first 5 ingredients

1 cup packed light brown sugar

With hands, knead dough until well-blended and it holds together

1 cup of butter or margarine,
softened

Preheat oven to 350°

1 egg

Pat dough evenly into 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 jelly roll or bread pan. Bake 25 mins.

1 tsp of vanilla extract

In small saucepan over low heat, melt chocolate, stirring frequently; set aside. Remove pan from oven; pour chocolate over baked layer; with spatula, evenly spread over; sprinkle with pecans or colored sprinkles.

1 tsp. vanilla extract

Cool on wire rack. When cool, cut lengthwise into 6 strips, cut each strip crosswise into 12 pieces.

1 pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips, 6 ozs.

Store in tightly-covered container; use up within one week.

1 1/2 cups pecans, toasted & chopped

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

**Chat.Chat for kids, 2nd Sunday of Advent*, <https://catchat.ca/advent-activities/second-sunday-advent-for-kids>

**The Religion Teacher, Jared Dees, creator. *The Meaning of the Advent Wreath*, video.

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