



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent
Celebrating our 146th Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 10:30 am

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us.

We proclaim ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation to all of God's creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.

We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions, interpersonally and structurally.

We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

Connection Card

The Connection Card insert gives you a direct connection to the leaders and ministry at Holy Trinity. Ask questions, share prayer requests, and find out more about the ministry here. Please return the top portion in the offering plate or to an usher.



Please see back page for AED Instructions

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
from the *Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes* BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come "Nun komm"

ELW 263

PASTORAL GREETING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

(10:30)

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority
more than we trust you.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON (10:30)

O Sapientia from the *Great "O" Antiphons*

Bob Chilcott
(b. 1955)

O Sapientia, O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and reach from one end of the earth to another,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things.
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Please stand as you are able.

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.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

While we light the Advent Wreath we sing together:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel “Veni Emmanuel”

ELW 257 vs. 1-3

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

THE FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The first reading for the Third Sunday of Advent is recorded in Zephaniah, the 3rd Chapter.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:30)

THE SOLO

Expectans expectavi from *Oratorio de Noël* Op. 12

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Jamie Gangemi, *alto*

I waited patiently for the Lord: and He inclined unto me, and heard my calling.

(10:30)

THE SOLO

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Text: Philippians IV: 4-7

Anonymous
16th Century

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.
Amen.

SECOND READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

Slow

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the

Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

(refrain) Cantor/Choir:

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
for the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

(refrain) Congregation:

**Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
for the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.**

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
**for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might
and has become my salvation. *(refrain)***

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day:
**Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted. *(refrain)***

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
*(refrain, refrain)***

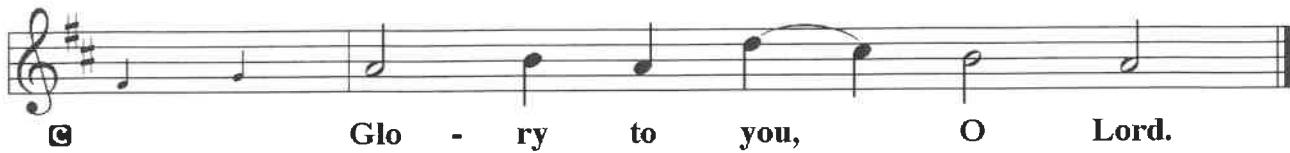
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke



⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

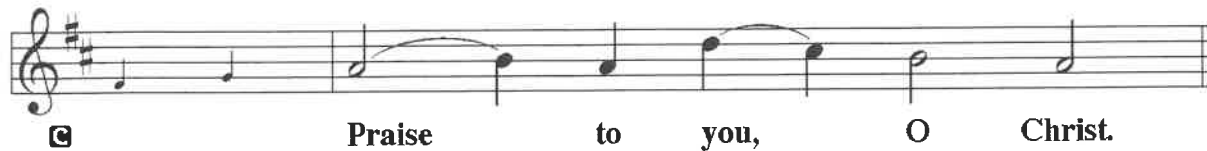
⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Richard Neal

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness “Nettleton”

ELW 843

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PASTOR AND PEOPLE

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower us to take risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislators, judges, and lawyers to embody love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick, and remember those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts.... Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Help us care for one another as we honor Carol Higgs on her 80th birthday, and remember all our children, especially Caiden, Conor, and Vivian. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died, especially Dana Jones and Elizabeth Jones, whom we remember through today's flower dedication. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

(8:30)

THE SOLO

I Want to Be Ready

African-American Spiritual

arr. Harry T. Burleigh
(1866-1949)

Jamie Gangemi, *alto*

I want to be ready, I want to be ready,
I want to be ready, my Lord, to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

John said the city was jus' four square, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.
An' he declar'd he'd meet me there, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

When Peter was preachin' at Pentecost, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.
He was endow'd with the Holy Ghost, walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

(10:30)

THE ANTHEM

O Sing Unto the Lord Op. 29

Text: Psalm 96, 98

William Mathias

(1934-1992)

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.
Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; show forth his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.
For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.
Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Give unto the Lord, the glory due unto his name:
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before Him, all the earth.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth:
make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.
Sing unto the Lord the harp; and the voice of a psalm.
With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord;
for He cometh to judge the earth:
with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.
O sing unto the Lord a new song, all the earth.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you feed us with your abiding presence.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

“Old Hundredth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

...

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord. Communion is received by "intinction" - you will be offered the wafer (gluten-free is available) and you dip the wafer into either the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice).

Pre-filled communion cups are also available for those who prefer less physical contact. People who do not receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Please advise an usher if you would like the pastors to bring communion to you in your pew.

COMMUNION SOLO AND ANTHEM (10:30)

Expectans expectavi from *Oratorio de Noël* Op. 12

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Jamie Gangemi, *alto*

I waited patiently for the Lord: and He inclined unto me, and heard my calling.

On Jordan's Bank (Chorale, *Muscicalisches Handbuch*, 1690) arr. Richard Lloyd
Text: Charles Coffin (1676-1749), tr. John Chandler (1808-1876) (b. 1933)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

For Thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without Thy grace our souls must fade,
and whither like flow'r decayed.

Stretch forth Thine hand to heal our sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon Thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise eternal Son,
To Thee whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit blest, for evermore.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Sovereign and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,

for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,

for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,

for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us

as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

We invite congregation members to share this holy meal with people who are unable to worship in person. Communion elements and a simple printed liturgy are available on the altar to guide you. Please take a bulletin with you to be able to easily share today's scripture and prayers with the meal.

THE BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway “Bereden Väg För Herran”

ELW 264

THE DISMISSAL

Be watchful, and stand firm in your faith.
Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Let all we do be done in love.

POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
from the Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)



*You are encouraged to take the bulletin home with you for future reference.
Otherwise, please place them in the recycle bins at the entrance ways.*

*We invite you to join us downstairs in Redeemer Hall
for refreshments and fellowship following the 10:30 Service.*



Stewardship – Far

How buying a cookie at Holy Trinity
helps feed a child in an orphanage in Haiti:

Step 1: order cookies from our Global Mission Team

Step 2: pay for the cookies so the Mission Team can send money to Haiti

Step 3: you enjoy the cookies, and the children enjoy a meal

Thanks to all who ordered cookies – we hope you enjoy them!!

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, December 15, 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Service of Holy Communion (CH)
9:00 am Family Play Group (RH)
9:30 am Youth Choir (MR)
9:40 am Sunday Roundtable (FR)
10:30 am Service of Holy Communion (MC)
10:30 am Sunday School/Nursery (SS)
11:30 am Coffee Hour (RH)

MONDAY, December 16, 2024

9:30 am Bible Study (FR)
6:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous (RH)

TUESDAY, December 17, 2024

7:00 pm Council Meeting via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2024

10:00 am Staff Meeting (CR)
12:00 pm Staff Lunch with Personnel (FR)
5:30 pm Food basket sort and assembly (RH)
6:00 pm Grades 7-12 Christmas Activity (RH)
6:00 pm Vocalis Rehearsal (MC)

THURSDAY, December 19, 2024

10:00 am Watercolor Class (RH)
6:00 pm Chapel Choir (CH)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MC)
7:00 pm AA/AL-ANON (RH)

FRIDAY, December 20, 2024

9:00 am Poinsettia delivery
6:30 pm Student Recital (MC)

SATURDAY, December 21, 2024

9:00 am Christmas Flower Set up (MC)
11:30 am Christmas Rehearsal (MC)

SUNDAY, December 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Service of Holy Communion w/chapel choir (CH)
9:00 am Family Play Group (RH)
9:30 am Youth Choir (MR)
9:40 am Sunday Roundtable (FR)
10:30 am Service of Holy Communion (MC)
10:30 am Sunday School/Nursery (SS)
11:30 am Coffee Hour (RH)

CH = Mansperger Chapel
FR = Fellowship Room
MR = Music Room
SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room
FI = Fireside Room/Library
PS = Pastor's Study
SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room
MC = Main Church
RH = Redeemer Hall
YR = Youth Room

At 8:30 am the announcer and reader is Pat Ulrich. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Killian Brown.

At 10:30 am the announcer is Jen Yap. Reader is Karen Saona. Ushers are Marty Bauer, Matt Brown, Carole Casterline, Roger Draper, Craig Johnson and David Pellnat. Communion Assistant is Sami Wnek. Chancel Care member is Donna Leiser. Acolytes are Adrianna Wareham, Avery Best, Henry Flynn, Tony Lizauckas and Clayton Best.

The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of W. Dana Jones and Elizabeth Jones by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones; and In honor of Carol Higgs' 80th birthday from the Martin Wright Family.

Collection counters are Doug Alderdice, Karen Kolb and Sue Spindler.

Council President Jen Yap, will be at the entrance to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Caiden, Conor and Vivian Tyree.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will be collecting non-perishable food items until December 18 for our Christmas baskets. Cans with tabs are preferred, and please no expired food. Last year we were able to give each recipient a \$100 gift card. Your monetary donations would help get us the funds we need. Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity with a Christmas basket notation.

ANGEL/MITTEN TREE: Please be sure to place your gifts under the Angel Tree at church by today. Thank you for participating in this fulfilling ministry!

COOKIES FOR HAITI: Pick-up day is today. After the 8:30 service, pick up will be in the pass through area outside the Chapel entrance. After the 10:30 service, pickup will be in Kahler Korner (area outside the office). Payment by cash or check only.

GIFT BASKETS AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY (Grades 7-12): Wednesday, December 18th, 6pm-8pm, Redeemer Hall:

Hey 7th-12th graders! Come and help organize food baskets to give to families in need, followed by cookie decorating, snowflake making, and hot cocoa! This is the perfect way to give back, have fun, and celebrate the season with friends! Please RSVP using the link or QR code below.

<https://bit.ly/Christmas7-12>



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The chancel is so beautiful on Christmas Eve with the striking red of poinsettias. If you would like to purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of someone or simply “to the glory of God,” they may be purchased for \$12 each. Order forms can be found at the entrance ways, in the newsletter or in the weekly email.

ANNUAL HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS CARD: The Annual HT Christmas Card will be available for all to sign and send a greeting to our family and friends at Holy Trinity. It is located near the stairs leading to the main sanctuary's angel lectern door. There is a secure donation box on the wall. Funds raised this year will be given to the Caribbean Children's Foundation for continued support and will be collected through Christmas Eve.

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA FOR SOMEONE WHO "HAS EVERYTHING"? ELCA Good Gifts may have the answer for you! Chicks, goats, honeybees and cows are some of the most popular items offered in the catalog. (<https://goodgifts.elca.org>) Or, perhaps you'd consider a donation toward an irrigation system, a microloan, computer access or school supplies. Cards are available online to print. There will be hard copies of the catalog available throughout the church.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Join the Monday Morning Bible Study group and Pastor Rich Dec. 16 as we continue our series on biblical interpretation, this week reading to reap meaning from some favorite Advent and Christmas passages. We will meet in the Fellowship Room from 9:30 to 11:00. As always everyone is welcome.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Save the date! The next annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2025. The backup date (e.g., in the event of a blizzard) will be Sunday, February 2, 2025. Please join us as we vote on our annual spending plan/budget, elect members of council, and discuss plans for 2025.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely, or depressed, Crisis Services is available. Their hotline number is 716-834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Mr. Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

LYWNY WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY: Each year, the youth at St. John's Lancaster throw a Christmas party with a white elephant gift exchange. This year, that is happening on Sunday, December 15th. This is open to all youth around WNY. Check out www.lutheranyouthwny.org/events for future details.


LYWNY WINTER FUN AT CHESTNUT RIDGE: Sled the hills of Chestnut Ridge and just enjoy winter fun with friends! On Saturday, December 21st we will make a day of the shortest day of the year! This event is open to youth in grades 4-12 and has no cost. Details on times, locations, and registration can be found here: www.lutheranyouthwny.org/events.

LYWNY SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT AT LCLC: Let's make this year's retreat one to remember! Sign up and bring a friend to experience all the newness of Camp in 2025 and all the renewal in Christ's love for us from January 3-5th, 2025. Registration/info link: www.lclcenter.org/winter-retreats.

THE NRC YOUTH ALLIANCE "TOUR OF FAITHS": The Network of Religious Communities Youth Alliance is excited to invite you to our first "stop" on our Tour of Faiths, Saturday, December 21 at the Church of the Nativity UCC. There will be a Living Nativity with live animals! See the flyer below for more details and please register.

**All are welcome to come to the
"Living Nativity"
at The Church of Nativity UCC
1530 Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda
Saturday, December 21 @ 4:30 & 5:30 pm**

Performances will include live animals with a camel. Guests of all ages are encouraged to attend. Enjoy some refreshments and time with the animals. It should be a fun time for all! We hope you will attend. Please register by scanning the QR code.

 For Questions and further information contact Janet Vaughan jvvaughan98@aol.com

2024 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Marian Sunday

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:30 am Worship in the Mansperger Chapel

10:30 am Worship in Holy Trinity's historic Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm Family Service

9:45 pm Pre-Service Music

**10:30 pm Festival candlelight Service of Holy Communion
with guest instrumentalists**

CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 am Christmas Service (Mansperger Chapel)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come “Nun komm der heiden heiland”

ELW 263



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version

Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter. *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

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SERMON HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness "Nettleton"

ELW 843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway "Bereden Väg För Herran"

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!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

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Jennifer Yap, *President*

Kathy Biesinger, *Vice-President*

Fred Howard, *Treasurer*

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Christopher Huber, Karen Kolb, Pat Lonergan,
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The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor for Parish and Spiritual Development*

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For CARDIAC EMERGENCIES:

Our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)
is located in the Sacristy on the wall near the window.
Look for the First Aid and AED sign near the top of the door to the Sacristy.
Exit the Sanctuary next to the Angel Lectern.
The Sacristy will be the first room on the left.
Coming from other areas of our building,
go up the stairs toward the Main Church and turn left.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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