

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
504 S. Westnedge at Cedar Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan
269-344-6181 www.tlckzoo.com

WORSHIP at 8:30 and 11:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE STUDY 9:45 AM

Lessons and Carols

December 15, 2024

*As the prelude begins, please observe a period of
silence and contemplation in preparation for worship.*

PRELUDE: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
setting by Rudolf Moser (1892-1960)

The * indicates when the congregation stands, if able.
Congregational responses are in **bold**.

***BIDDING PRAYER (Read by Pastor)**

P: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture, the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this congregation. And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed, the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus, we are one forevermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**C: 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**

***PROCESSIONAL CAROL:** **ELW #262**
"Wait for the Lord" Jacques Berthier (1923-94), The Taizé Community
Congregation and Choir

(Please be seated after the processional carol)

THE FIRST LESSON - Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
setting by Richard Shepard (1949-2021)
Negar Afazel & Nick Kogon, Violins; Jon Barnes, Cello

THE SECOND LESSON - Genesis 22:15-18

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

ELW #263

THE THIRD LESSON - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "Christ Is Nigh" Old Scottish Tune,
setting by Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

THE FOURTH LESSON – Micah 5:2-4

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

THE FIFTH LESSON – Luke 2:1, 3-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CANTATA: "In Dulci Jubilo" (BuxWV52)
13th/14th Century German;
Cantata by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

THE SIXTH LESSON - Matthew 2:1-11

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "What Star Is This" Richard Shepard (1949-2021)

THE SEVENTH LESSON - John 1:1-14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" **ELW #295**

OFFERTORY: "What Child Is This" setting by Dennis Janzer
Negar Afazel, Violin

(As the offering is brought forward, please stand)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE CAROL:** "What Child Is This" **ELW #296**

***THE PRAYERS:**

P: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading
and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C: Come and teach us the way of knowledge.

P: O Adonai, Lord of Might and Ruler of the house of Israel, who
appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on
Sinai:

C: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

P: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the people, before whom all kings are mute, to whom all nations bow:

C: Come quickly to deliver us.

P: O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, who opens the gates to heaven:

C: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

P: O Dayspring, Splendor of light everlasting, be with all who are depressed, lonely and ill (especially). May they find comfort in those who care for them as they await the healing presence of Christ.

C: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

P: O King of the nations, the Ruler they longed for, the Cornerstone uniting all people:

C: Come and save us, O Lord our God;

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.

CAROL: "Joy to the World"

ELW #267

BENEDICTION: May Christ, the Incarnate One, fill us with inward peace and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: "God Rest Ye Merry" English Carol,
setting by Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Thanks to the Lectors and Choir for their leadership in this worship service. This is the 40th year we have offered the Lessons and Carols Service at Trinity.

The Service of Lessons and Carols was first used at King's College Chapel, Cambridge University, England in 1918. The Scripture remains constant, the music chosen varies from congregation to congregation.

Welcome to Trinity! May the glorious good news of Christ's birth fill us with love and goodwill. Please join us downstairs following the service for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

OUR STAFF AT TRINITY:

Rev. Ken Johnson	Pastor
Rev. Jake Lehman	Outreach Pastor
Nathan Mattson	Organist/Director of Music
Katie Grubaugh	Office Administrator
Heidi Albertson	Dir. of Family Ministry & Youth Ministry
Terri Schmidt	Bookkeeper
Margaret Stevenson	Hospitality Host
Bob Koenes	Custodian
Dr. William Musselman	Organist/Director Emeritus

Welcome Team: 8:30 Janet & Arlen Gullickson
11:00 Erin & Mark Sutherland

LECTORS at 8:30: Jen Gatz, Teri Koretsky
LECTORS at 11:00: Sarah Zimmermann, Keith Peterson

ACOLYTES: 8:30 Jaxon Grubaugh, Avner Grubaugh
11:00 Elyse Albertson, Emma Zimmermann

PRAYER CONCERNS: Ruth Krueger, Beth Latshaw, Sandy Eschelbach, Linda Ward, David Mason, Marge Bateman, Rachel, Alex and Emma.

Our sincere condolences go to Sharon and Evan Kokales on the passing of their daughter Vicky Phillips. Please keep the family in your prayers.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Holly Wohlfert in memory of her Grandmother Adkin on her birthday December 18; by Mary and Pr. Ken Johnson in honor of Lars Johnson on his birthday; by Sharon and Jennifer Greenman in honor of Edith Wright on her birthday December 20; and by Pat Mason in honor of her daughter Mary Hinson's birthday and her great granddaughter Hosanna.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sun	Dec 15	Lessons and Carols Worship Service @ 8:30 & 11am Choir 9:25 All Sunday School classes 9:45 Open Doors 5-8
Tue	Dec 17	Clothes Closet 10-2 Loaves & Fishes 11-1 C.F.T. 11-12:30
Wed	Dec 18	Rebecca Circle 10 Wednesday Evening Worship 6
Sat	Dec 21	Youth Group Progressive Dinner 5-9
Sun	Dec 22	Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 Children's Christmas Pageant Service 11:00 Hot Dog Lunch 12:00
Tue	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship 5, 7 and 9pm <i>Church Office closed Dec 25 – Jan 4</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We encourage everyone to take a moment after the service to sign
Christmas cards for Trinity's homebound members.
Cards will be available in Fellowship Hall after both services
through December 15th.

Advent devotional materials, prayer booklets for adults, families, and children, are available in the Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful way to help keep our focus on Christ during this Advent season and the holy days of Christmas.

Personal Care donations for the Clothes Closet: Feminine hygiene products, soap, toilet paper & toothpaste.

Children's Christmas Pageant and Hotdog Lunch NEXT WEEK!- Mark your calendar for Trinity Lutheran's annual Sunday school Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 22 for the 11am Service!** After the program, our youth group will host a hot dog luncheon at noon. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the youth ministry activities. Please plan on joining us!

Meal Packing: Are you a busy mom struggling to keep up with delicious healthy homemade meals on top of everything else? Join a group of moms Saturday December 28 & 29(if needed) to make up to 20 bulk freezer meals in the church kitchen together. Many hands make for light work! See Julia Brown or email/text her at: juliawhitney.ceramics@gmail.com or 618-799-9981 for more info!

Volunteers Needed! On Monday January 6 at 10:30am - We need to take down and put away all Christmas decorations. *If you can help, please contact Jen Gatz at gatzjen@gmail.com or 269-993-2301 (text/call).*

Christ Clothes Closet: The Closet needs donations of women's underwear size 6 & 7 and socks, and winter coats for all as they continue to give away cold weather gear throughout this season.

Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer Services: All are welcome to join us for a reflective time of prayer and guest musicians each Wednesday in Advent at 6pm. We will be using the Holden Village Vespers Service and feature guest musicians at each service. For those unable to join us in person, the services will be live-streamed on YouTube and available to view anytime following the service.

Advent is a special time to remember the poor. Baby Jesus was sent without any provision for comfort. There is a bulletin board in the fellowship hall near the giving tree that challenges each of us to consider making a personal sacrifice for a time for Jesus' sake. Do share the plan you come up with in the space provided. That is one way to "encourage one another to love and good works"- from Hebrews.

From the SCRIP (gift card) Table: We hope you will take advantage of the gift cards our Service Ministry has available at the SCRIP Table; they are a perfect fit and easily mailed! Please stop by the SCRIP table or call Janet Gullickson (260-372-0081) to buy or order cards and support our work. Thank you!

The Salvation Army Angel Tree will be set up in Fellowship Hall to collect toys through December 15.

Refugee Families in Need! Trinity is working with Bethany Christian Services to sponsor new refugee families for the holiday season. We currently have 5 families that have a list of practical needs and wish list items and as a congregation we would like to be able to fulfill those needs! If you are interested in helping with this project with individual items, or wish to sponsor and entire family, please contact the church office or Pr. Jake.

Trinity's Loaves and Fishes Pantry Requests:

Although basic food needs are being met, our pantry clients are most grateful for extras that are not often included in our Loaves and Fishes orders. Adding any of these items to your grocery cart would be appreciated. They can be dropped off in the church office.

cooking oil

corn bread/muffin mix

mustard/ketchup/mayo (small bottles are fine)

cereal (incl. oatmeal, specially instant)

cake mix/frosting

We continue to have a need for plastic bags but at this time, we no longer are in need of egg cartons.

If you have access to Thrivent Grants, please consider using one to help purchase needed items and supplies for church outreach and events! Contact the church office if you are looking to find out more.

Rebecca Circle Looking for a chance to participate monthly in a women's small group meeting for Bible study? Rebecca Circle is an excellent chance to make some new acquaintances while studying God's word. The next Circle meeting will be at Trinity on Wednesday, December 18 at 10am.

Mark your calendars - Women's Game Night Friday January 10th from 4-6. Bring a snack to pass, a favorite game(if you have one) and a White Elephant gift!

Free Online Learning Opportunity through our Synod! Join our friend, Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen (*daughter in law of Jim and Chris Allen and theologian in residence at Trinity in June 2024!*) and Indiana Christian Church Associate Professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, for a six-week course titled, "Jesus and the Little Children". The class is free of charge and will meet on six consecutive Tuesday evenings: January 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 2025 from 7:00 – 8:15pm ET via Zoom and is open to all adults, both laypeople and rostered ministers. Registration is required and will close on January 6, 2025. Sessions will be recorded and available to those registered for one week. Register Now!

Register here today! <https://forms.gle/exuae03ntjq1DBXr7>

Trinity Blood Drives: We are again planning to host American Red Cross blood drives at Trinity in 2025. Currently these are the planned dates, but always watch the newsletters for confirmation; Wednesday Jan 15, 2025, Wednesday April 16, 2025, Wednesday June 25, 2025, Wednesday August 27, 2025. We are asking for volunteers to become part of the team to help with registrations/hospitality, some set-up and closing the church at end of the drive. If you are interested/able to do this, please contact Holly Wohlfert at 269-808-3889 or the church office. Thank you in advance for your help.

One of the suggested goals from some of our members is to have Trinity's location be "The Best Blood Drive in downtown Kalamazoo!" To help us attain that goal, please prayerfully consider becoming a donor! Also, if you are a Thrivent member and have access to Thrivent gift cards that could be used for prizes, we would welcome them as donations to help increase our donation numbers. Maybe we could also offer additional choices of post-donation goodies? If you have any ideas for ways to make us the best donation spot, please let Holly Wohlfert know!



Trinity Lutheran Church's Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Wednesday December 18 – Holden Village Evening Vespers at 6pm
Service of Healing with Guest Musician Gabriel Renteria-Elyea
(In-person and Live-Streamed and available anytime following the service)

Sunday December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – 8:30 & 11:00
Children's Christmas Pageant at the 11:00 Service
Hot Dog Lunch at 12pm - all are welcome!

Tuesday December 24 – Christmas Eve - 5pm, 7pm & 9pm
5pm Service focused on Families with younger children.
Both the 5pm and 7pm Services will be live-streamed.

Sunday December 29 - 8:30 & 11am

