

The Light who is *Christ*

is *guiding us*

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD SUNDAY  
JANUARY 6-7, 2024



# Trinity Lutheran Church

213 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Mason City, Iowa 50401 | 641-423-0536 | trinity-mc.org

## *Epiphany of Our Lord*

January 6, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

January 7, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9

*Humans have an almost universal longing for home. We long for those memories of security or comfort, we long for familiar paths and sidewalks and the old oak tree in the backyard. We long for what was, knowing we can never return once we have been changed by life.*

*But no matter where we are or how far we travel, as Christians we are always home. For the children of God, home is less place than it is experience of the presence of God.*

*On Epiphany, we celebrate the presence of God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. We travel on, trusting that the Light who is Christ is guiding us.*

**Welcome to Trinity!** We are glad you're here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

**We love having small children in worship!** Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. A **unstaffed nursery** is also available, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (door under the stained glass window door).

**Large print bulletins and listening devices** are available from the ushers.

**Activity Bags** are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

### Serving in Worship This Weekend

**Pastor** Dan Gerriettes

**Organist** Nathan Elsbernd

**Greeters**

**Coffee Fellowship**

Stu Vold

John & LaVonne Welch

**Communion**

5:00 p.m. Sam and Deb Hunt

Earl Kiefer

9:00 a.m. Tom and Nancy Ball

Kay Larson

**Scripture Readers**

5:00 p.m. Deb Hunt

9:00 a.m. Kay Larson

**Technical Support**

9:00 a.m. Sophia Fitzgerald

Evelynn Hunt

Carter Rockwell

**Worship Transportation**

Max Burt

**Ushers**

5:00 p.m. Sunken Family

9:00 a.m. Brad Baalson

Kevin Hendrikson

Tony Siemons

Burton TeKippe

**Our Mission** *We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.*

# GATHERING

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God, our rock and refuge,

**C we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another  
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**C Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

ELW 275

### **\*Greeting**

P The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

P Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

**Children's Sermon** (9:00am)

**Pastor Dan Gerrietts**

### **Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

L <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

L <sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

ELW pg 124

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first two phrases: 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,'. The second staff continues with 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes with rests, and a final double bar line is present at the end of the second staff.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## \*Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

P <sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**Sermon**

**Pastor Dan Gerriets**

**Hymn of the Day**

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

ELW 302

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

P God of grace,  
C **receive our prayer.**

**\*Peace**

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

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**MEAL**

**Announcements**

**Offering**

Text to Give is available at Trinity!  
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.  
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.  
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



**\*Offertory**

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

ELW 310

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise:  
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem in the birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems to be thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

**\*Offering Prayer**

P Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

ELW pg. 129

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

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.

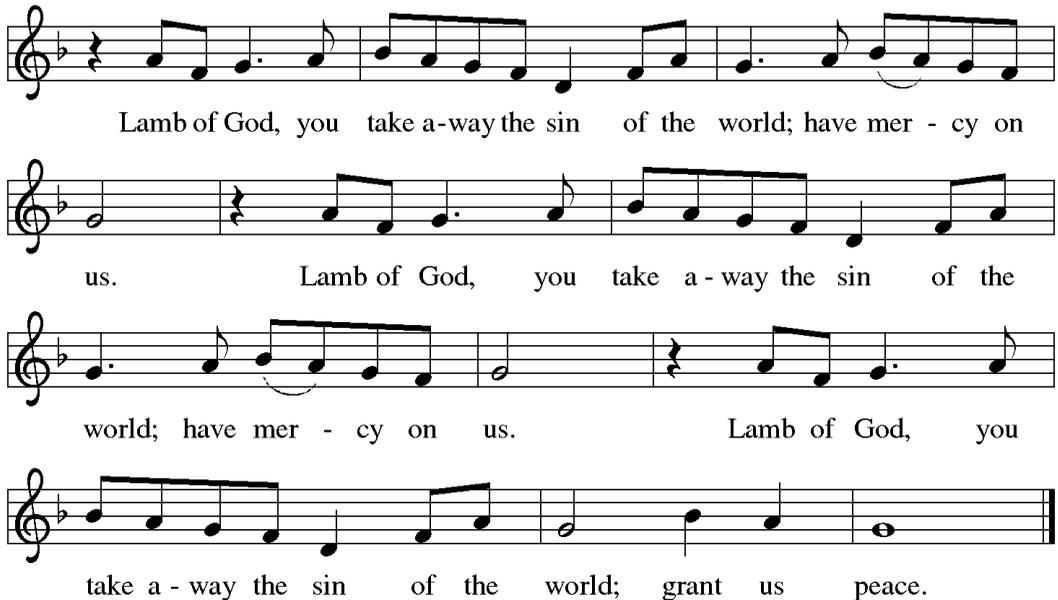
## Communion

*All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that come in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today. Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary, you will be kneeling at the rail. You will return to your seat by the center aisle. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.*

*If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.*

## Lamb of God

ELW pg. 135



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.

## Communion Hymn

*The First Noel*  
*Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

ELW 300

ELW 301

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

P God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Arise, Your Light Has Come*

ELW 314

**\*Sending**

P Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers**—are given by **Candy Marshall** in memory of her sister, Kristine Gatewood.

**Bulletins**—the cover art is sponsored by **Joyce Clayton** in honor of loved ones.

### **Holy Baptism**

Today we celebrate the baptism(10:30am) of **Beau Ryan Spotts**. Beau is the son of Blake and Kelsey Spotts. Beau's sponsors are Mac Spotts, Reggi Spotts, Isabelle Warner and Taylor Warner. Join us in giving thanks to God as we welcome **Beau** to the Body of Christ and the mission we share!

### **Walking to Better Health**

**Wednesdays in January | 10:30 AM | Gathering Space**

We will walk in place with easy-to-follow moves to shape the waistline, flatten the tummy, and strengthen the back. These DVD workouts are high energy and loads of fun!

### **BASES Exercise Class—Tuesday & Thursday**

**| 8-9:00 a.m. | Gathering Space.**

This free exercise class for adults age 55 or older is coordinated by RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and led by RSVP volunteers. The low-impact exercises are designed to help stretch and strengthen the whole body.

### **Book Discussion**

**Monday, January 8 | 1:00 PM | Gathering Space**

**Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the**

**World** by Vicki Myron and Brett Witter “How much of an impact

can an animal have? How many lives can one cat touch? How is it possible for an abandoned kitten to transform a small library, save a classic American town, and eventually become famous around the world?” **Multiple copies are available to check out from the Trinity Lutheran Church office.**

### **Middle School Students—Snow Tubing at Mt. Kato**

**Sunday January 14 | 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM**

Middle School students are invited to snow tube at Mt. Kato! We will stop in Albert Lea for lunch, so students should bring extra money for lunch. We will finish our drive to Mankato, snow tube, and then return directly back to Trinity around 6:30 PM. Trinity will provide snacks and water bottles for the drive home on the bus. Check out our Trinity Youth Calendar for more information on this event [trinity-mc.org/calendar](http://trinity-mc.org/calendar) **Price per child/\$30.00**

### **Milk Jugs Needed**

The Sunday School needs 40 (1 gallon) milk jugs by January 12. Please save any you have (please rinse them well) and bring them to the cabinet in front of the church offices. Thank you!

## TLC OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **Worship Greeter** – Greet worshippers as they enter the building for weekend and midweek services. Volunteer position. Contact the office.
- **Usher** – Distribute bulletins, welcome, collect offering, usher people for communion. Volunteer position. Contact the office.
- **Worship Transportation** – Assist Region 2 Transit driver in picking up those needing a ride to Sunday worship. Volunteer position. Contact the office.
- **Community Kitchen Volunteers**—Trinity provides volunteers to help prepare and serve meals at the Community Kitchen, *either the 1st Monday of each month from 9-1:00 and the 4th Wednesday of each month from 4-6:30 p.m.* See the bulletin boards by the church office. It is a fun opportunity to engage in being a member of a servant church.

*For more worship serving opportunities, go to [trinity-mc.org/worship-volunteers](http://trinity-mc.org/worship-volunteers)*

## Lunch and Learn

Thursday, January 18 | 12:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

*Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Ride Tour | (Soup and salad served for a free will offering.)* Trinity members Joann Johnson and Susan Bangert will share about their 5-day pilgrimage to iconic civil rights sites in Memphis, Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, a tour offered through the Waterloo Human Rights Commission. We all play a role in dismantling racism through becoming better informed about the history of race relations in this country.

## SIT & SIP

Saturday, January 20 | 8:30 AM |

Gathering Space

Join us for a comfortable gathering for all ages with coffee, goodies, and good conversation. Our Guest Speaker will be Linda Siems from Molly's Mission.

**January, February and March Christ in Our Home Devotional Books** are available. Copies are located by the church office and welcome desk.

**The 2024 Flower Calendar and Bulletin Calendar** have been posted. If you'd like to honor a loved one, remember a birthday and/or an anniversary while enhancing Trinity's sanctuary for the celebration of worship, please consider donating altar flowers or colored bulletins for a weekend. Both calendars are located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Altar Flowers are \$40 and Bulletins are \$25

## Camp Sunday is January 21

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp will be here to help us THINK SUMMER! A special camp video will be shown at both Sunday services.

# *Wednesday Night Alive*

January 10, 2024

**Meal is at 6pm**

*Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Baked Beans, Coleslaw and Dessert*  
Free Will Offering

**Programming begins at 6:30**

- **The Chosen** Join Pastor Dan Gerrietts for a viewing and discussion of *The Chosen*, a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed and backstories have been added; however, all the Bible and historical context and artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the scriptures. It is based on the true stories of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. This class will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Trinity's choir** is off during January but will resume in February.
- **The young women's group is for women**. Are you young? Think you're young? Join us. We meet on Wednesdays in the Library for conversations led by the spirit. No Bible knowledge needed... no homework ever. The group will continue the *It's A Wonderful Life* lessons started in November.
- **Kindergarten - Grade 6** students will come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and learn new things from talented Trinity adults with a new activity each week.
- **Confirmation : Grades 7&8**  
Confirmation students will gather 6:30 – 7:45 pm - in the Sunday School Wing and experience small group and large group learning as they study for their confirmation.
- **Flame: Grades 9-12**  
Will meet beginning Jan. 24. High School Youth Group meets 6:30 - 7:45 PM in the Youth Room.

**Trinity Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 28 | 12 :00 PM**

Trinity Fellowship Hall & Zoom

**(Trinity Youth will serve lunch at 11:30 AM)**

*Agenda: Pastoral Call Process Update | 2023 Ministry Review  
2024 Mission Goals and Budget*

To attend online and/or to receive the meeting packet in advance,  
register at [trinity-mc.org/annual-meeting](http://trinity-mc.org/annual-meeting)

## **Help make the 2024 Youth Gathering**

**possible for Trinity Youth!** You can support youth by picking up an envelope from the envelope wall. Each envelope has a different \$ number, from 1-100. If all envelopes are claimed, we will raise \$5,000 toward our trip costs. Thank you for your support!

## **Trinity Staff Opportunity—Nursery**

**Coordinator** Trinity seeks a caring and organized person to coordinate our nursery staff for worship services, Wednesday Night Alive, and other special events, beginning January 2024. This is a paid position. Interested? Please contact Pam Fike ([pam.fike@trinity-mc.org](mailto:pam.fike@trinity-mc.org)) or Pastor Dan Gerrietts ([dan.gerrietts@trinity-mc.org](mailto:dan.gerrietts@trinity-mc.org)) for more details.

## **Bible Study Opportunities**

**Each Wednesday morning** Trinity offers a Bible Study based on that weekend's readings led by the preaching pastor. Men's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 7-8am and Women's Bible Study meets in the Library from 8:30-9:30am.

***Lydia Bible Study*** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and will meet on **Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 208.** We meet for treats, conversation and then continue with the Bible Study. Lydia uses the Gather Magazine for their Bible Study. All are welcome to join us.

***WELCA Bible Study*** meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month and will meet on **Thursday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 208.** Rev. Dr. Norma Cook Everist will lead the study on "*Seventy Images of Grace in the Epistles*—the January session will focus on "*Called Out of Meaninglessness for Purpose*" This will be an interactive Bible Study with meaning for our daily lives. Women of all ages are invited to attend.

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

### **Monday, January 8**

9:00 a.m. Lectio Divina (Rm. 322)  
9:30 a.m. Altar Guild (Rm. 300)  
1:00 p.m. Book Discussion (Gathering Space)  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
Girl Scouts

### **Tuesday, January 9**

8-9:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)  
Noon Staff Meeting  
6:15 p.m. Women's Ministry Cabinet Mtg. (Rm. 300)

### **Wednesday, January 10**

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Library)  
9:30 a.m. Lydia Circle (Rm. 208)  
10:30 a.m. Capper Bell Choir (Sanctuary)  
10:30 a.m. Walk to Better Health (Gathering Space)  
5:00 p.m. Legacy Committee (Rm. 300)  
6:00 p.m. WNA Meal  
6:30 p.m. WNA Programming

### **Thursday, January 11**

8:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)  
9:30 a.m. WELCA Bible Study (Rm. 208)  
7:00 p.m. Una Vocis Rehearsal

### **Saturday, January 13**

**5:00 p.m. Worship Service**

### **Sunday, January 14**

8:00 a.m. Health Cabinet Mtg. (Rm. 300)  
**9:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
*(Livestreamed Facebook & YouTube / KCMR 97.9 FM)*  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School—Health Fair  
**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**  
11:00 a.m. Middle School Snowtubing