



*The First Sunday of Christmas*

DECEMBER 27-28, 2025



213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVE, MASON CITY, IA | 641-423-0536 | TRINITY-MC.ORG

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

***Pastors***

Dan Gerrietts, Daniel Hanson, Beverly Butler

***Organist***

Nathan Elsbernd

***Acolyte***

Grace Koob, Addison Koob

***Advent Liturgy***

Saturday: Sally Becker

Sunday: Jake & Nancy Rockman

***Scripture Readers***

Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday: Nancy Rockman

***Ushers***

Saturday: Penny Bennett, Robert Verbrugge

Sunday 9:00am: Brian Koob, Noah Koob, Dan Clarke, Randy Dedor

Sunday 10:30am: Pat Marshall, Bob Verbrugge, Emma Peters, Amy Zieman

***Technical Support***

Carter Rockwell, Penny Bennett, Amy Zieman, Leo Peterson, Calah Hesley

***Greeters***

Saturday: Dan and Millie Godfrey, Roger Rossum

Sunday: Gary and Vicki Wattnem

***Coffee Fellowship***

Mindy Farland, Craig Remmen, Kathy Pitcher

***Worship Transportation***

Dean Graven, Bruce and Karen Squier

***Building Host***

Randy Elsbernd

**COLOR BULLETINS**

given by

Harlan and Marge Baack

*in honor of Trinity Staff and the Trinity Congregation*

# ***The First Sunday of Christmas***

Saturday, December 27, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 28 2025 - 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9

Sunday, December 28 2025 - 10:30 AM

## ***Light with Us - Lessons and Carols***

Last year on the weekend after Christmas, we shared a fun and interactive service called “Lessons and Laughter.” This year we have a brand new lessons and carols service with unique and creative elements - a joyous approach to the good news of Jesus’ birth!

Celebrate Christmas this weekend through this playful service designed for all ages. Come experience Christ the Light with 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. An **unstaffed nursery** is also available, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (the door under the stained glass window door).

***Seating for People with Limited Mobility*** is reserved in several places throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs.

***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.



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

## Prelude

## Welcome

### **\*Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles**

L Hope is:

**C Trusting that there is light, even in the dark.**

*(Light the first candle)*

L Peace is:

**C The wolf lying down with the lamb.**

*(Light the second candle)*

L Joy is:

**C Contagious sounds of Alleluia.**

*(Light the third candle)*

L Love is:

**C Unquenchable, never-ending, born in a manger, here today.**

*(Light the fourth candle)*

L Christmas is:

**C A love song to the world; the light that shines in the darkness.**

L Let us make a joyful noise! Let us worship God.

*(Light the Christ candle)*

### **\*Gathering Hymn**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

# First Lesson – Light

## Reading - John 1:6-8, 19-23

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>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.

## Kinesthetic Prayer of Confession

**Liturgist 1:** People of God, the prayer of confession tonight will be a kinesthetic prayer, which means we will use both our hearts and our bodies to pray. I invite you to join me in prayer, responding with actions as you are prompted. Let us pray.

Friends, on the night of Jesus’ birth, Mary and Joseph struggled to find a place to lay their heads.

**Liturgist 2:** If you, like the people of Bethlehem, have ever withheld hospitality to those within reach, please cross your arms.

**Liturgist 1:** On the night of Jesus’ birth, the wise men traveled long and far, trying to get to Jesus.

**Liturgist 2:** If you have ever let your faith take a passive, backseat position in your life, failing to take the steps necessary to deepen your faith, please bow your head.

*(continued.....)*

- Liturgist 1:** Joseph showed radical grace to Mary at a time when many would have shunned her in their disbelief.
- Liturgist 2:** If you have ever failed to show grace to yourself or another, please close your eyes.
- Liturgist 1:** Family of God, this is what sin feels like—being cut off from one another, in the dark, disconnected, and alone. However, we worship a redeeming God who pursues us even in our absence.
- Liturgist 2:** Therefore, if you, like the shepherds, have ever looked for God’s love in this world, open your eyes.
- Liturgist 1:** If you, like Mary, have ever treasured your neighbor as a gift from God, raise your head.
- Liturgist 2:** If you, like Joseph, have ever forgiven yourself or someone else, uncross your arms and open them in front of you.
- Liturgist 1:** And if your head is still bowed, your eyes still closed, or your arms still crossed, open and uncross them—for you are forgiven by the grace of God.
- Liturgist 2:** Friends, this is what the Kingdom of God feels like—heads up, eyes open, connected, forgiven, and known. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

## Second Lesson – An Angel Appears to Mary

### Reading - Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

## Third Lesson – Travel

### Reading – Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

### Sharing of the Peace

## Fourth Lesson – Shepherds

### Reading – Luke 2:8-16

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

# Fifth Lesson – Magi

## Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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.

## Children’s Message

### Song

### *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain:**  
**O star of wonder, star of light,**  
**star with royal beauty bright,**  
**westward leading, still proceeding,**  
**guide us to thy perfect light.**

Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. **[Refrain]**



Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**[Refrain]**

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies.

**[Refrain]**

## Offering

L The wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh—the finest gifts for a king. However, they also brought themselves, physically putting their bodies at the edge of the manger. Tonight let us follow in their footsteps.

Tonight let us also offer ourselves, our prayers, and our financial gifts. You will find a paper star in your bulletin. In a moment, when you hear the music begin to play, I invite you to write or draw a prayer of gratitude on that star. Then, when you are ready, I invite you to carry your star and any monetary gifts with you to the front of the sanctuary. Place your monetary gifts in the boxes at the front of the chancel, then walk to the outer wall of the sanctuary where you see the twine that is strung. Clip your star prayer to the twine before returning to your seat. If you would like an usher to bring your offering and/or star forward, simply hold up your hand and they will assist you.

Friends, as we offer our whole selves to God tonight, we do so by symbolically offering our gifts to the manger and surrounding the congregation with stars to multiply the light in this space. Let us now give our time, talents, and treasures.

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



## Offering Prayer

L God of hope, peace, love and joy— You have given us everything we have; from the magic of snowfall and tall strong evergreens, to the smell of home cooking and the sound of alleluias. You have given us everything, and yet when you were born into this world, all they gave you was a manger and some hay. So, God of light we pray—take and use these gifts. Use them for your good so that others may be strengthened like the roots of an evergreen, that they might feel the warmth of your light and hear the sound of Alleluia. In gratefulness we pray,

**C Amen.**

# Sixth Lesson – The Word Became Flesh

## Reading – John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## \*Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

P Lord, in your mercy,

**C. Hear our Prayer.**

P Now, echoing the words of your Son—God made flesh—we pray together the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

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 and Sending**

L Family of God, “To you is born, this day, in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11), and that God is stronger than any darkness. So believe this good news—God is here, God is love, and God loves you.

As a reminder of that love, let us sing “Joy to the World.” If you received a bell as you came into worship, we need you to take it out and get ready to ring it on verses 1 and 4. Together, let’s sing and ring about the wonders of God’s love!

**\*Hymn**

*Joy to the World*

**ELW 267**

## **\*Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Carry God’s light!

**C Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

**Tuesday, December 16** | 9:30 AM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to sing Christmas hymns and play BINGO!

## BOOK DISCUSSION January 12

1pm (Gathering Space)

Our next book is *Little Wolves* by Thomas Maltman. The story is set on the Minnesota prairie in the last 1980s during a drought season that is pushing family farms to the brink. The book weaves together elements of folklore and Norse mythology while being driven by a powerful murder mystery.

## WEDNESDAYS BREAK

Our mid-week programing will take a recess on December 24 and December 31. Stay tuned for our new series which begins on January 7<sup>th</sup>!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP BREAK

All related activities will take a break starting December 21 and will resume on January 11th.

The Sunday School staff and Youth Team wishes you a Blessed Advent & Christmas Season!

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 AM Quilting Workshop (Fellowship Hall)  
9:00 AM Centering Prayer (322)  
6:00 PM Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
9:30 AM Fellowship Coffee (Fellowship Hall)  
10:45 AM Prayer Shawl Gathering  
12:00 PM Staff Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
8:30 AM Women's Bible Study  
2:00 PM Cancer Support Group (Rm 300)  
5:00 PM Rejoicing Spirits (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 PM Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 AM ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE**  
6:30 AM Choir Practice and Youth Programs  
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:30 AM Coffee and Clapper Bell Choir (Rm 307)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

**5:00 PM WORSHIP SERVICE**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

**9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** - Livestream, 97.9  
**10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** (Contemporary)

## TRINITY GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

The Ministries Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous participation in the Giving Tree this year. Many gifts purchased for many needful children who will be delighted. Thank you!

## WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Throughout the winter, as challenging weather occurs, Trinity will post cancellations on four (4) different outlets; The Trinity Website (look for the red banner at the very top of the home page), on the Trinity Facebook Page, on KIMT Channel 3 TV, and on KCMR 97.9 FM Radio. Stay safe and warm out there!