

A Promise COMING *True*



ADVENT 2025

The Third Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 13 & 14, 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

Preacher

Pastor Beverly Butler

Organist

Nathan Elsbernd

Cantor

Kylie Hansen

Acolytes

Leo Peterson, Levi Dodge

Advent Liturgy

Saturday: Sally Becker

Sunday: Jake & Nancy Rockman

Scripture Readers

Saturday: Sally Becker

Sunday: Kathy Dobrzynski

Ushers

Ron Moeller, Kay Larson, Randy Dedor, Ethan Miller
Gary Lindgren,

Technical Support

Carter Rockwell, Evelynnn Hunt, Alayna Johnson

Greeters

Saturday: Dan and Millie Godfrey, Roger Rossum

Sunday: Bruce and Karen Squier

Coffee Fellowship

Lisa Lorenzen, Sandra Willis, Linda Olson

Worship Transportation

Randy Elsbernd, Jane Anthony

Building Host

Dana Rockwell

COLOR BULLETINS

Given in memory of Charles Warner
by his wife, Audrey Warner

The Third Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 13, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 14 2025 - 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9

Advent 2025: A Promised Savior

In the season of Advent, we count down the days until Christmas. This Advent, we center our worship on God's promise: the promise of a Savior. Trusting in God's enduring faithfulness, we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas while our longing hearts wait in hope for God's promised Savior's reign of peace.

Week 3 Theme: How do you feel when you hold onto a belief that the deepest desire of your heart will come true even before you see any evidence? How do you feel when you get a glimmer that what you hardly dared hope for is becoming a reality? This week we reflect on how ***A Promise Coming True*** 2000 years ago is relevant for us today.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* ELW 242**

*Greeting

P Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

C And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

P Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lighting of Advent Wreath & Children's Sermon *(Sunday)*

L This Advent, we countdown the days until Christmas by lighting candles on the Advent wreath. Each bright light shines hope into our world and our hearts. God's love is near.

C Jesus, you are our light and our salvation.

L We light the first Advent candle, remembering God keeps promises, even promises made long ago.

C Jesus, you fulfil the promise of God's saving grace.

L Today, we light the second candle, longing for peace in our world and celebrating where it is found.

C Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace.

P Today we light the third candle, opening our eyes to God's work in our world today.

C Jesus, you are our refuge and strength.

P Jesus, we carry your light with us wherever we go.

C Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

(continued....)

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 56 *(Read responsively)*

L Have mercy on me, O God, for people are hounding me;
all day long they assault and oppress me.

**C My enemies hound me all the day long;
truly there are many who fight against me from high ground.**

L Whenever I am afraid,
I will put my trust in you.

**C In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust and will not be afraid,
for what can flesh do to me?**

L All day long they damage my cause;
their only thought is to do me harm.

**C They band together; they lie in wait;
they spy upon my footsteps; because they seek my life.**

L Deliver them over to trouble;
O God, in your anger, cast down the peoples.

**C You have noted my lamentation; put my tears into your bottle;
are they not recorded in your book?**

L Whenever I call upon you, my enemies will be put to flight;
this I know, for God is on my side.

**C In God, whose word I praise;
in the LORD, whose word I praise—**

L in God I trust and will not be afraid,
for what can mortals do to me?

**C I am bound by the vow I made to you, O God;
I will present to you thank-offerings;
for you have rescued my soul from death and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God in the light of the living.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-45**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

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

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ 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.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Beverly Butler

Hymn of the Day *Christ, Be Our Light*

ELW 715

***Prayers of Intercession**

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Announcements

THANKSGIVING

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**

**Lord, we bring our gifts to you;
Symbols of our love made new;
As we wait for Christ, our Light;
Bless our hearts with hope made bright.**

(Sung to the tune of *Take My Life, That I May Be*, ELW 685)

***Offering Prayer**

P Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
C Amen.

***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.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
C Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

People, Look East

ELW 248

***Sending**

P Go in peace. Trust the Promise.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

CHRISTMAS EVE

WORSHIP SERVICES

1:30 PM

*Pastor Dan Gerriets preaching
Traditional worship with Communion*

4:00 PM

*Pastor Daniel Hanson preaching
Worship service livestreamed online,
and broadcast on KCMR FM 97.9
(Family-friendly)*

5:30 PM

*Pastor Beverly Butler preaching
Traditional worship with Communion
(Family-friendly)*

10:30 PM

***Musical Prelude at 10:00 PM**
Pastor Dan Gerriets preaching
Traditional worship with Communion
Livestreamed online,
and broadcast on KCMR FM 97.9*

2025 Christmas Offering

All designated Christmas offerings at Trinity this year will be shared evenly with the Trinity Welfare Fund, Community Kitchen and ELCA World Hunger. Designated offerings include those dollars that are received through member's Christmas offering envelope, the Christmas online giving tab, and any other gift marked "Christmas." Thanks for your generosity to these partner ministries!

Poinsettias and Christmas Memorials

Poinsettia memorials (\$17) and Christmas memorials are being accepted through December 14th. Sign up on the clipboard or give us a call in the Office.

ADVENT WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

REJOICING SPIRITS | 5:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Rejoicing Spirits is inclusive of all ages and abilities as we connect with God and one another. Join us on Wednesday, December 17 to celebrate the birth of Christ through song, skit, prayer and servant project. Following the worship service, enjoy pizza and root beer floats for a free-will donation.

COMMUNITY MEAL | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Dinner is served from 6:00pm to 6:30pm for a free-will offering.

This week’s menu: Pizza, Salad, and Cookies

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE | 6:30—7:00PM | Sanctuary

The service will combine story, Scripture, music, and prayer to connect our hearts this season of longing, anticipation, and hope.

***Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room | 6:30pm—7:30pm**

Trinity’s Choir is open to all vocalists, high school age & older. Please join us!

YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

***Nursery | 6:30pm—7:30pm | The Nursery is located on 2nd floor, just outside the Sanctuary.**

The Nursery is UNSTAFFED but is available for preschoolers and their parents during this time.

***Campfire Kids, Grades 1-6 | Rm 208 | 6:30pm—7:30pm**

Campfire Kids is our elementary programming here at Trinity on Wednesday nights. Students embark on fun Bible adventures with their leader Nate Ruge, and other wilderness guides, as they experiment with Bible Stories and Faith Traditions. In December, we will explore our Nordic heritage and some traditions, including Santa Lucia.

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 7th!

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!

CAMPFIRE KIDS PROJECTS

Thanks again for all the milk crates! We’ve loved watching them pop up at the office door.

Campfire Kids still is in need of six (6) more milk crates if you know of any sources.

We are also looking for the following items:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| plastic crowns or tiaras | bird stuffed animals | lanterns or candles, |
| fishing equipment | old wedding attire, | battery or rechargeable |

CALLING ALL MUSCIANS

Sound the trumpets, strike the drum — time to get the band back together again for the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service here at Trinity! Participation in the band's rehearsals held on the two Sundays before Christmas Eve is encouraged. Contact Nathan Elsbernd: nelsbernd19@gmail.com

ADVENT WREATH READERS AND LIGHTERS for Christmas Eve

Individuals, couples or families interested in reading the Advent Liturgy and lighting the Advent Wreath at the Christmas Eve Services are welcome! Please sign up on the clipboard outside the office or give us a call in the office.

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.

TODAY! HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY.

(Youth Room)
All High School Trinity students and friends are invited to attend our party this Sunday at 11:45 am. We'll start with lunch and then Christmas party games and activities will begin. Bring a gift around \$10-15 for a gift exchange game or see Dani if you need one. Information about the 2026 Trinity Youth Trip will be given during this event!

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!