

Preparing the Way

LUKE 1:5-25

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth



PO Box 427 - 500 S Penn Ave

Pastor Dave Martin

1 Advent – December 3, 2023

9:30 AM Worship – 10:45 AM Sunday School

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer

Lighting of First Candle on Advent Wreath

P: John the Baptist had one central message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" John prepared the way for Christ's first coming as an infant so long ago. Now we also have been called to prepare the way for Christ to come again. Our message is still the same: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

C: Lord, as we light this Advent candle, ignite us in our mission to those of this world. We have been called to "prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Empower us by your Spirit to fulfill this mission in our lives. Jesus, help our lives to reflect the message of John the Baptist: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Amen.

Songs "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (v 1.4.5) **LBW 34**

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

Confession & Forgiveness:

P: The holy and just God comes to us this Advent season. How shall we receive him? We are by nature sinful and unclean and have sinned against him by thought, word, and deed. We deserve nothing but punishment.

C: O God, we greet your coming this Advent season with humble and penitent hearts. We confess to you all our sins and flee for refuge to your infinite mercy.

P: God comes to us in grace. He has given his only begotten Son to die for us so that all our sins might be forgiven.

C: O God, we greet your coming with believing hearts. Have mercy on us and for Jesus' sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, so that by

your grace, we may come to eternal life.

P: God comes again right now to each one of us through his Word of grace. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but be its Savior." For Jesus' sake, God declares to each one of you: "Fear not, your sins are forgiven; go in peace".

C: **Amen! Thanks be to God.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS HOLY WORD

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 40:1-5

Page 762

Colossians 1:15-20

Page 1251

Children's Sermon

Sermon Text: Luke 1:5-25

Page 1085

Sermon **"Preparing the Way"**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Song **"Manger Throne"**

Nicene Creed

Offering**

Prayers of the Church

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Blessing

GOD CALLS US TO SERVE

Song **"He Has Come for Us"**

Benediction

ENTER TO WORSHIP – DEPART TO SERVE

*www.tlclplattedsd.org tlclplattedsd@gmail.com (605) 337-3881
email bulletin info by Thursdays 8 AM*

Thank you for joining us this Sunday morning to worship our God together! **We will have fellowship time with coffee and cookies following worship.** We hope you will join us!

****The offering plate will be in the narthex so please place your donations in as you enter or exit. To GIVE ONLINE through Breeze, go to our website www.tlclplattesd.org. Click on "GIVING" on our homepage and you will be directed to our online giving platform Breeze. It is a convenient, safe and simple way for our members or visitors to make automated payments through bank ACH directly or credit/debit cards. Text-to-give (605) 741-4118.**

November 26 General Offering: \$2625.00 Attendance: 118
Mission Fund Offering – College Care Packages: \$337

Greeters Dec 3—Jeff & Rhonda Engebretson
Dec 10—Frank & Marsha Cutler
Dec 17—Doug & Lori Chambers
Dec 24—Dave & Joyce Carter
Dec 31—Terry & Donna Boysen

Ushers Dec 3 & 10—Kevin Nelson & Chris Nelson
Dec 17 & 24—Jay VanDerWerff & David Kott
Dec 31—Tom Boltjes & Ryan Lantz

Communion Servers Jim Holter, Donna Boysen, Ryan Lantz

Coffee Cookie Servers

Dec 3—Casey Holter, Kathy Holter, Tana Huizenga
Dec 10—Darla Johnson, Katie Johnson, Melissa Johnson
Dec 17—Cookies provided by Sunday School families
Dec 24—Christmas Eve (No Cookies)
Dec 31—New Year's Eve (No Cookies)

Prayer Ministry Team—Kevin Severson & Jonna DeHaan,
Jeff Engebretson & Mary Ringling

Today we will be celebrating Holy Communion.

Visitors are welcome to share with us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for us, for the forgiveness of sins.

The flower committee requests donations of **poinsettias to decorate** our sanctuary for the Advent season.

Trinity Lutheran's Sunday School **Christmas program "A Night in Bethlehem"** will be during worship on Sunday, December 17th. The Sunday School classes will be practicing during the Sunday School time on Sundays, December 3 & 10.

Women's Bible Study for Advent

"Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here" by Max Lucado
Mondays, Dec 4th, Dec 11th & Dec 18th

There are 2 session times available: 1 pm and 7 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church Fireside Fellowship

Books available on Amazon & Christianbook.com or contact Mary Ringling 680-1893 **Everyone is welcome!**

The Angel Tree is up! *Thank you for helping give joy to a prisoner's kid this Christmas. It starts with a GIFT and leads to lives transformed through JESUS CHRIST.* Please choose a "ANGEL" on the tree and mark down on sheets which one you chose. The recommendation is that the gifts be around \$25. Return wrapped presents to the library by **Sunday, December 10th** so we can get them mailed to the children by Christmas. Try to put presents in **smallest box possible** to cut down on postage. If you would like to donate towards the cost of postage, **the December mission fund offering will be designated towards this project.** It will be taken on Sunday, December 10th or donations can be given one of the Angel Tree Committee members: Wendy Wollman, Marla Tegethoff or Connie Kirsch

Please join us once again for **Advent Worship services** at our senior facilities on Mondays in December at 2:15 PM. Each service will begin with a prayer, the singing of several Christmas carols, followed by the reading of three scriptures, a ten-minute (or less) message, and Holy Communion. Following each service, we will fellowship with residents over coffee and cookies. (If you love to bake, maybe that's one way you can bless some of our shut-ins this Advent season.)

Please see the worship schedule below for times and locations.

Date:	Time:	Location:
December 4	2:15 PM	Twilight Vista
December 11	2:15 PM	Avera Care Center
December 18	2:15 PM	Twilight Vista

Men, **please join us Saturday, December 9 at 7 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for our **weekly Men's Breakfast**. After eating, we will adjourn to the Fireside Room, where we will watch a video from the Authentic Manhood 33 Series. Following the video, we will break into small groups, discuss the video, and pray with and for one another.

How does a church become filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit of God? There is only one way: through prayer. Pastor Dave is going to be offering a class based on a study of "The Prayer Saturated Church" by Cheryl Sacks. It will begin on Tuesday, January 9th with a morning class offered from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, and an evening class offered from 5:45 to 6:45 PM. **This class does require you to sign up, as I need to know how many books to order.** Please sign up on the bulletin board just outside the Fellowship Hall. Please indicate what class time you prefer and let's grow together in our understanding of prayer and our ability to pray.

Missions in Sioux Falls are in need **men's gloves, socks and stocking hats** for this winter. Also looking for donations of Bibles, devotionals, and Bible Study books for adults, teenagers and children. These items can be placed in the tote in the narthex.

*We are still collecting other donations but please just seasonal items as they don't have room to store lots of items. Please bring items to Shirley Johnson's or Gloria Kok's garage but call first.

PRAYER PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Those in nursing and assisted living homes or home-bound:

Assisted Living: Mary Lee Erickson, Ruth Gruenig, Adele Holter, Laura Johnson, Richard Johnson, Arnie Larson, Caroline Peterson

Please pray for:

- Please pray for Adele Holter, who is now in a swing bed at the Platte Hospital. Please pray for Adele and all her loved ones to know the Lord's peace, love, strength, and comfort for all that lies ahead. Thank the Lord that she has no pain.
- Praise God that Richard Johnson's pneumonia cleared up and he was able to return to his home in Kimball. Please pray for his continued health and vitality and for him to feel the Lord's presence in everything he does.
- Please continue to pray for the family and friends of Maylou Stanforth as they grieve her passing. Praise God for her strong faith and for the blessings of a close-knit family. Pray that in their sorrow, they will always know the Lord's hope, joy, peace, and love.
- Praise God Dan Daum's brother, Jim, recently underwent successful ablation surgery on the right side of his spine. Please pray for his quick recovery from this surgery and that the 2 ablation procedures he had done would diminish his pain greatly and give him a new lease on life. Pray he would feel God's hand upon him throughout his recovery and would experience the Lord's love, peace, and joy in a powerful way.
- Praise God Moe Johnson's right leg and back have improved greatly from your prayers. He can sleep soundly now, without pain. Please pray God would amaze Moe by reversing his glaucoma & healing his neuropathy in his feet. Pray for him to have the faith to believe these things are not beyond God's ability.
- Thank you for your prayers for Peggy's mom and my mother-in-law, Phyllis Olesen. Her nausea, dizziness, and headaches have gone away. Please pray God would heal her of the sciatica pain in her left leg, restore her to full health, and give her many good years ahead. Pray for her to feel the Lord's comforting presence in all of this.
- Praise God Rod Berg's September MRI at Mayo showed complete resolution of the lesions in his brain. Rod and Vicki are so grateful and are thanking Jesus for this awesome result. They want to thank each one of you for all your prayers. Rod will continue the infusion treatments monthly and return to Mayo in December for a brain MRI and re-evaluation.
- Please keep Alison Dykstra's sister, Julie Pepper, her husband, Matt, and their extended family in your prayers as Julie continues her battle with ovarian cancer. Praise God her October scan showed her treatment is

holding the cancer in check. Please pray that very soon the cancer will be completely gone. Praise God Matt is in cardiac rehab and doing very well.

- Please continue to pray for Pastor Mike De Jager of the First Reformed Church in Platte. Please pray for the Lord to heal his spine and stabilize his neck, especially where it attaches to the brain stem. Pray for the Lord to heal him quickly and completely and for Mike to be blessed with many years of active life ahead of him.

He Shall Reign Forevermore

In the bleak mid-winter all creation groans
For a world in darkness frozen like a stone
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne

Chorus: And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born. The King of kings and Lord of lords
and He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man I would travel far
If I were a shepherd I would do my part
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart

Chorus

Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice, Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears the Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years Christ the Messiah

He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

Chorus

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Manger Throne

You could have stepped into creation with fire for all to see
Brought every tribe and nation to their knees
Arriving with the host of heaven in royal robe and crown
The rulers of the earth all bowing down

But You chose meekness over majesty
Wrapped Your power in humanity

Chorus: Glory be to You alone
King who reigns from a manger throne
My life my praise everything I own
to Jesus the King on a manger throne

You could have marched in all Your glory into the heart of Rome
Showed them splendor like they'd never known

But You wrote a better story in humble Bethlehem
Creator in the arms of common men

You will die for our redemption and You'll rise so we can live

Chorus

From heaven to the cradle, From cradle to the cross

Let heaven and nature sing "This is our King!"

But the grave couldn't hold Him, Our God has overcome

Let heaven and nature sing, "This is our King!" (repeat)

All hail the King. All hail the King. All hail the King.

Chorus

My life my praise everything I own to Jesus the King on a manger throne

To Jesus the King on a manger throne

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He Has Come For Us

God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day

To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray

O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy

O tidings of comfort and joy

Chorus: He has come for us this Jesus. He's the hope for all mankind

He has come for us the Messiah. Born to give us life

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came

And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same

How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name

O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy

Chorus

All the angels sing, "Hallelujah, Jesus Christ is born!"

All the children sing "Hallelujah! He is Christ the Lord!"

Chorus Born to give us life.

All the angels sing, "Hallelujah, Jesus Christ is born!"

All the children sing "Hallelujah! He is Christ the Lord!"

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