

Trinity Lutheran Church

255 E. Third Street Herscher, IL

Phone: 815-426-2262 ~ www.trinitylutheranherscher.org

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!



The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13 & 14, 2025



Welcome, children of our Heavenly Father!

*I Cor. 10:16 calls our eating and drinking of the sacramental bread and wine an actual sharing in the body and blood of Christ. As we share this gift of the Savior, we also seek to be faithful to the confession of the Apostles' Doctrine, which Scripture says was shared by those who received the sacrament together. For this reason, **guests** who desire to commune are kindly asked to speak to the pastor or an elder.*



In our prayers: Judy Bankey (*friend of Deb & Kim Weerts*), Evelyn Bauer, Doris Benjamin (*mother of Jane*), Lois Brenneisen, Sarah C. (*requested by a friend of Sharon Dummer*), Sue Cornett (*sister of Joanne LaChappell*), Benny Cruse (*grandson of Donna Ohrt*), Andrea Dewez (*friend of Sharon Dummer*), JoAnn Dickman, Violetta Donovan, Karen & John Eberhardt (*sister and brother-in-law of Barbara Schwark*), Donald Fehrenbacher (*father of Ashley Evans*), Heidi Gallegos (*niece of Gloria Graham*), Rebecca Graham (*mother-in-law of Gloria*), William Graham (*husband of Gloria*), JD Hall, Richard Hall (*nephew of Sharon Dummer*), Diane Hart, Jason (*nephew of Michelle Hinich*), Jeff Jones, Jamie Jones (*friends of Kamber Johnston*), Peter Kelly (*friend of the Chmielowiec's*), Brent Klockenga (*cousin of Heather Thurston, nephew of Nancy Snedecor*), Michelle Kooy, Gerald Kroesch, Myra Jean Kroll (*close friend of Emma Kruse*), Don LaChappell, Marge (*friend of Norma Bell*), Brandon Malone, Bonnie Matherly, Les Naese (*father-in-law of Brian Malone*), Donna Ohrt, Marilyn Ohrt (*friend of Deb Chmielowiec*), Caleb Outerbridge, Brian Plenert (*son-in-law of Don & Joanne LaChappell*), Melissa Plugge (*friend of Tina Varvel*), Edith Schwark, Nikky Shute, Val Smith (*friend of Rachel Taube*), Mallory Glazik-Sommer (*friend of many members*), Colter Strickland (*extended family of Hart/Pfeifer/Shute*), Willy Van Wassenhove, Jason Warpet (*cousin of Deb Chmielowiec*), Lorraine Whitwell, Ken Winebaugh and Jared Zimmerman (*son-in-law of Douglas & Tammy Gray*).

For all those that our Savior knows are in need, and those we name privately before our Lord.

+ **ORDER OF WORSHIP—DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR—LSB 203** +

+ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** +

Hymn of Invocation: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

L I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C **The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit (*Spoken responsively ½ verse by ½ verse*) *Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you covered all their sin.

Will you not revive us again,

that your people may rejoice in you?

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is at hand.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.
⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*Spoken responsively ½ verse by ½ verse*)

Psalm 80:1–2

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Stir up your might and come to save us!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,

begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each petition

- P** ...let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: Your Table I Approach	<i>LSB 628</i>
Distribution Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared	<i>LSB 622</i>
Distribution Hymn: The Infant Priest Was Holy Born	<i>LSB 624</i>

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn to Depart: When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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In Response to our Savior's Love

Date/Weekend:	Sat.	Sun.	Total	Offerings:	Operating	Missions	All Other Funds
November 30 th	8	54	62		\$ 3,531.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 290.00
Mid-week Advent 12/3			30			\$ 185.00	
December 7 th	35	83	118		\$ 6,213.49	\$ 485.00	\$ 65.00
Sunday School			33		\$ 5.00		
Bible Study	3	26	29				
High School Bible Study (with Adults)							
Mid-week Advent 12/10			24			\$ 275.00	
Average amount needed weekly to meet current Operating expenses							\$ 5,950.00
Average amount needed weekly to meet current Mission commitments							\$ 692.00

Complete financial reports are given at Quarterly Voters' Meetings usually held on the third Sundays of January, April, July, and October. Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your envelopes, have offering envelopes issued or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list. 2026 offering envelopes will be available late December.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry Stewardship Thoughts - December 14 – Advent 3

Matthew 11:10 – “This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

Announcements

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Jean Janssen in thankfulness for her family.

Offerings: Offerings may be placed in the plate on the stand at the back of the sanctuary.

Mission Goal-2025: Praise be to our Father in heaven! We have reached our Mission goal for 2025. Thank you to all that contributed. We pray our gifts will be a blessing to all our mission recipients and assist them in sharing God's Word throughout the world.

Angel Tree Ministry: Please return your gifts to the church office wrapped with the angel tag (number side up) taped to the package by 12:00pm this Sunday, December 14th. Gifts will be distributed through the school district to families and/or directly to others in need in the community. Recipients will remain anonymous. Thank you and God bless!



Sunday School Christmas Program Practice continues. It is held each Sunday during the first ½ of Sunday School. Please contact Heather Meredith 815-573-1056 or Heather Thurston 815-791-6708 with any questions.

A full dress-rehearsal for the Christmas Program will be held next Sunday, December 21st during the Sunday School hour.

January Newsletter deadline is Monday, December 15th by 9:00am. Please and thanks!

Dartball games will be held Monday, December 15th at 7:00pm. Trinity 1 at home vs. Tri Parish; Trinity 2 at Herscher Methodist.

Hannah Circle and friends will be Christmas Caroling at the Villas at Herscher Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30pm. ALL VOICES WELCOME!!!!

Mid-Week Advent Worship continues on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00pm. Pastor Brown & Pastor Wyeth are doing a pulpit exchange during Advent. Please join us as we await the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Wrapped Christmas Candy Donations needed: We are accepting candy donations for the bags that will be distributed Christmas Eve following the Children's service. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Hannah Circle Nut Sale-a few bags left: We continue to sell Priestler's Pecans in the Parish Hall for our annual fundraiser to benefit our missions and ministries. Thank you for all your support!

Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

(In addition to our regular services held Saturdays at 5:00pm & Sundays at 8:30am)

<i>Advent Worship Service</i>	<i>December 17th</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Children's Christmas Program</i>	<i>December 24th</i>	<i>6:30pm</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>	<i>December 24th</i>	<i>10:30pm</i>
<i>Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion</i>	<i>December 25th</i>	<i>9:00am</i>



This week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday 12/15	8:30am	<i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>
	9:30am	Sunday School & High School Bible Study
	9:45am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30am	Confirmation
	12:00pm	Angel Tree Gifts Due
Monday	8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live
	9:00am	January Newsletter Deadline
	7:00pm	Dartball Games-Trinity 1 @ home; Trinity 2 @ Herscher Methodist
Tuesday	8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live
	6:30pm	Hannah Circle Christmas Caroling @Villas at Herscher
Wednesday	8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live
	10:30am	Little Lambs 4-year-old Christmas Party
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	<i>Advent Worship</i>
	7:45pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	8:00am	Devotion on Facebook Live
	10:30am	Little Lambs 3-year-old Christmas Party
	6:00pm	Little Lambs Christmas Program
Friday		Little Lambs – No School 12/19 thru 1/5
Saturday	4:00pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00pm	<i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 12/21	8:30am	<i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>
	9:30am	Sunday School w/full dress rehearsal for Christmas Prog. & High School Bible Study
	9:45am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30am	Meredith Kitchen/Parish Hall

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Brown

Kantor: Caleb Dehning

Elder/Communion:

Jerry Brutlag (Sat.)

Ken Taube (Sun.)

Next Week:

Jeremy Thurston (Sat.)

John Varvel (Sun.)

Usher Captain:

Van Schwark (Sat.)

Bill Orr (Sun.)

Altar Guild:

Cheryl Brutlag & Paula Kruse