

December 3, 2023

Hanging of the Greens



Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.
Psalm 33:20

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

634 Alden Drive

Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Church phone: 274-4210

Church office email: trinityaub@outlook.com

Web: <http://www.trinityaubne.org>

Rev. Brent Berg, Pastor

Cell Phone: 402 883-0086

Email: pastorbb22@gmail.com

Our mission is sharing the saving love of Jesus



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran! Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

OPENING HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 341

(Please stand and turn toward the cross at the sanctuary entrance.)

(The Processional Cross leads us into worship as the long-awaited "King of Kings" is drawing near.)

- | | | |
|----------|---|---|
| 1 | Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! | Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing. |
| | Behold, the King of glory waits. | To God the Father raise |
| | The King of kings is drawing near; | Your joyful songs of praise. |
| | The Savior of the world is here. | |

(Please be seated. The Christ Candle follows the cross of Christ to symbolize the Light of the world that only Jesus can bring.)

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 2 | A righteous Helper comes to thee; | The end of all our woe He brings; |
| | His chariot is humility, | Therefore the earth is glad and sings. |
| | His kingly crown is holiness, | To Christ the Savior raise |
| | His scepter, pity in distress. | Your grateful hymns of praise. |

(The Bible and Altar Book are brought in to symbolize the Word of God. Jesus is the "Word who became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14) The altar flowers follow these symbols for the presence of Christ in our worship.

*We have not gathered on our own accord. Christ has called us together.
These flowers represent the joy of God's people in the life He gives in this world and our sure
hope of eternal joy.)*

- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, The cloudless sun of joy is He
Where Christ the ruler is Who comes to set His people free.
confessed! To God the Spirit raise
O peaceful hearts and happy Your happy shouts of praise.
homes
To whom this King in triumph
comes!**

*(The tree is decorated next with red bows
to remind us of the price Jesus paid with His blood for our eternal salvation.)*

- 4 Fling wide the portals of your So shall your Sov'reign enter in
heart; And new and nobler life begin.
Make it a temple set apart To God alone be praise
From earthly use for heav'n's For word and deed and grace!
employ,
Adorned with prayer and love
and joy.**

*(The heart banner is brought in as our response to all that the Lord has first done for us in
Christ.*

*It is our pledge to serve in His Kingdom of Grace while we await with joy His Kingdom of
Glory.)*

- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, Until our glorious goal is won.
abide! Eternal praise and fame
O enter with Thy grace divine; We offer to Thy name.
Thy face of mercy on me shine.**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION (*stand*)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive Him through faith, He makes them to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: **and grant us your salvation.**

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

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

Pastor: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

People: **that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

People: **and our land will yield its increase.**

Pastor: Righteousness will go before him

People: **and make his footsteps a way.**

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: **and grant us your salvation.**

KYRIE *(spoken responsively)*

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us

People: as we wait for Your revealing.

Pastor: Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the guilt of our sins

People: and saved by Your mighty deliverance;

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT *(sit)*

Isaiah 64:1–9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us,

and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Elder: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Elder: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: **righteous and having salvation.**

Elder: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE (*stand*)

Luke 3:4b, 6

Pastor: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

People: **all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 11th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 11:1–10

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and

threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *(sit)*

"Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357

(The Christmas wreaths are placed in the nave to symbolize the “evergreen” quality of eternal life for all who believe in the Savior. The wreaths are decorated with holly, whose red berries remind us of the blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of sins.)

Women/girls: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

ALL: Oh, come our Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Men/boys: Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

ALL: Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save;
Bring them in victory through the grave.

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

(The candles are lit reminding us of the growing nearness of both our celebration of the promise fulfilled and the eternal promise which awaits us in Jesus.)

Women/Girls: Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Men/Boys: Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

(The Lighting of the Nave occurs as we sing "Rejoice!" All the Christmas and chancel lights are lighted to remind us to "Arise, shine, for your Light has come.")

**ALL: Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be yourself our King of Peace.**

ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED (*stand*)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He
rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING *(God continually provides for us. Our giving should reflect our heartfelt cheerfulness that trusts in God. As your faith guides you, let your offering of all your gifts – time, talents, resources – enable us to move forward in the mission Christ has given us.) Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 8:1-9, 12; 2 Cor. 9:6-8*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Gracious Lord, sustain Your saints to the end as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed among us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give boldness and faithfulness to our Synod president; our district president; our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Renew the faith and quicken the love of all Christians, that we may be enriched in all speech and knowledge. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant Your blessing to all marriages and keep all husbands and wives faithful to each other. Guide them as they care for the children entrusted to them. Bestow Your loving care upon all children who have suffered abuse or neglect, as well as upon all who open their homes to children in foster care. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders and protect our armed forces, taking them under Your care and blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow and the dying from their fear, *especially* Carol, Teresa, Lynn, and Nita. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem to shouts and cheers of joy. Grant that we may be stirred by the Word and Sacraments to rejoice anew, now and at His second advent. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Father, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

CHOIR HYMN *(sit)*

“Light of Peace”

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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Guests and visitors, if you do not already have a church home in the area, we invite you to join us in celebrating the Savior's birth at our Christmas Eve service on, **Sunday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m.**, and Christmas Day on **Monday, December 25th, at 9:00 a.m.**

We also invite you to join us every Sunday for worship at 9:00 a.m. and for our Sunday School for children and Bible Study for adults at 10:00 a.m.

*For in Him (Jesus) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.”
(Colossians 1:19-20, ESV)*

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK, we pray to our merciful Heavenly Father for:

- ✠ **Healing and strengthened faith in Christ for those who are ill:** Carol Bogle (Randy Bogle's mother), Teresa Groth, Lynn LaBalle, Nita Whitney and all those in need.
- ✠ **Encouragement, strengthened faith and healing for those with long-term illnesses:** Delta Boden, Gary Bowen (Jack & Romelle Humphrey's brother-in-law), Marshall Clark (Jim & Sharon's grandson), Glen Hogue, Melissa Pierpoint, Chris Schlichtman (Vicki Ackerman's brother), Joni Scotter (Rich Scotter's mother), Emily Sheets (Jim & Lori Parrish's niece), Gary Spear, David Stelling, PJ Vercauteren (Brad & Merri Johnson's son-in-law), Elta Whitney and Jim Whitney.

THOSE CELEBRATING SPECIAL DAYS THIS WEEK:

Birthdays: 12/3: Abel Berg; 12/7: Memphis Pingel; 12/8: Royce Johnson;
12/9: Elaina Riley

Baptisms: 12/4: Nora Ackley

Anniversaries: 12/4: Gary and Pat Maddox

| SUN – 12/3 | MON – 12/4 | TUE – 12/5 | WED – 12/6 | THU – 12/7 | FRI – 12/8 | SAT – 12/9 | SUN – 12/10 |
|---|---|--|--|---------------|--|---------------|--|
| Hanging of the Greens 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Adult & Children's Sunday School | 10:00 AM Bible Study & Prayer | 6:30 PM Bible Study & Prayer | 6:00 – 6:45 PM Confirmation 6:15 PM Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM Advent Midweek Service | | 6:30 - 8:30 PM Game Night | | Missionary Guest 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Adult & Children's Sunday School |

THE GOSPEL AT WORK

Christ's Servants:

Organist .Sandy Wilson

Pianist Vicki Ackerman

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Our Thankful Response to Christ's Love:

Worship attendance..... 31

Sunday School attendance

Adult 17

Children/Youth 2/0

Evening Bible Study 4

Lessons for next Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Please fill out the attendance slip in your pew rack each Sunday to assist the Elders in maintaining an accurate worship record!

Reminder: if you have to use a door key to access the church building, *be certain to relock the door behind you to keep the building secure.*

Congregational Governance Committee: a group has been formed to update and revise the constitution and by-laws of Trinity Lutheran Church. Currently, like many other churches, we are unable to meet the requirements of our constitution and by-laws. The ideas that are currently being considered are having fewer boards; and recruiting volunteers for short-term commitments to individual activities. The revision process is lengthy, and before any revisions are finalized, the final results will be taken to the Voters Board for approval and then forwarded to the district for approval. Please consider becoming a voter and having your voice heard in this process. The committee also

welcomes all feedback, comments, and concerns as we move through the process. Brad Johnson (Chair), John Ackerman, Brent Berg, Sarah Bogdanoff, Paul Hinrichs, Judith Ruskamp

Reminder: Please be sure to check your “Spam/Junk” email folders periodically to see if messages from Trinity are being routed there instead of to your Inbox. You can help prevent this by clicking on the ‘accept mail from this user’ type of option in your email application, or by adding Trinity Lutheran Church into your contact address book. Your email application may also have other suggestions to eliminate the misrouting of your mail.

Announcements December 3, 2023

First Sunday in Advent

Choir practices Wednesday, December 6 at 6:15PM.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Bazaar a success! All the hard work helped make Trinity a part of Christmas celebration and traditions for all our neighbors and church family who attended! Once we have a total of proceeds, we'll share the info as to how we will be able to contribute to some of our mission goals.

Mark Your Calendar: LWML Christmas Party, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at home of Pat Maddox. All women invited. Advent/Christmas Devotion, holiday games, optional \$10 gift exchange, fun and fellowship.

Preschool Materials Available: A number of preschool toys, books and miscellaneous items are available for members to take. Toys are located in the former preschool storage room on the north side of the east fellowship hall; books are on a table in front of the cubbies in the east fellowship hall; miscellaneous items are on the bookshelf and in the cabinets of the former preschool office. Please refer to the signs in the office regarding those items. If you would like to make a free-will donation, please put it in the jar located in the kitchen serving window. If you have any questions, please contact Board of Education chair Raedeahna Gerdes.

Bible Study Opportunity Grows! We are coming to the end of our Sunday School lessons on the book of Romans. The next topic that we will be covering is the parables of Jesus. I pray that you will join us. So let us come together “For the next few months, let’s sit at Jesus’ feet, listen and consider what He wants to teach us. Along the way, we’ll pray that the seeds He sows will take root and bear fruit in our lives” (Michael Kasting, Author of The Parables of Jesus Bible Study).

We have one week left in our Tuesday evening Bible study about prayer. Then, we will be moving on to a study of the Bible. Through Advent, we will be covering the Bible, itself—some interesting topics like various translations, types of Bibles, and tools to help us study. Then, in January, we will begin a two year study of the Bible using the Today’s Light devotional Bible. These new Bible studies will be held starting on December 4th on Monday mornings at 10:00 am and Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. The same Bible study will be held twice each week to give more individuals the opportunity to attend.