



Sunday, December 6, 2020

Advent 2

Worship focus: *Christmas Comes Anyway:
Even when we're not in control.*

Preservice music performed by Kyara Koepsell and Julia Lisanti (late service).

HYMN 2 – “Savior of the Nations, Come” (verses 1, 4, & 5)
 (The “Amen” is sung after the last hymn only.)

**1. Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**4. From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell –
High the song of triumph swell!**

**5. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.**

Please stand.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ☩ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON – Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph knew that God was in control.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 31

Spoken responsively

Our times are in God's hands.

P: In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge;

C: deliver me in your righteousness.

P: Be my rock of refuge,

C: a strong fortress to save me.

P: Into your hands I commit my spirit;

C: redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.

P: My times are in your hands;

C: save me in your unfailing love.

P: How great in your goodness,

C: which you have stored up for those who fear you.

P: You heard my cry for mercy

C: when I called to you for help.

**ALL: 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.**

SECOND LESSON – 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Paul knew he wasn't in control, but took comfort that God was in control.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4)

Please stand.

GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-3

Despite what it looked like, God was in control.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY 415 – “Be Still, My Soul” (verses 1 & 2)

**1. Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2. Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.**

SERMON Text: Luke 2:1-3

Theme: You are never beyond God's control.

1. Even when events are beyond our control,
2. the Almighty is still in control,
3. to save you.

Please stand.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

Offering plates are near the exits in which you may place your thank-offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



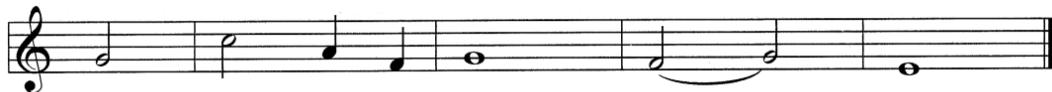
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

*Music performed by Kyara Koepsell and Julia Lisanti
(early service)*

THANKSGIVING

Please stand.

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

HYMN

14 – “Arise, O Christian People” (verses 1 & 4)

**1. Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.**

**4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly
And forth your glory show. Amen.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Matt Nowak
Office: 419-326-4402
Cell: 419-302-5271
Email: pastormatt@gmail.com

Church/School Secretary
School Office: 419-326-4685
Email: tsoffice@tlcjenera.org
Website: tlcjenera.org

GREETERS today are:

Josh & Ashley Breitigam – Early Service
Warren & Marilyn Pratt – Late Service

Next Sunday:

Jim & Jane Smith – Early Service
Bob & Julie Inniger – Late Service

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of November 29, 2020)

Total Worship Attendance: 244; Early: 71; Late: 64; Thanksgiving: 109; Adult Bible Study: 27; Teen Bible Study: 2. On-line worship service views for November 22 were 60.

MONEY COUNTERS for this morning through December 19 are the members of Jim A. Smith's Undershepherd group. Beginning Sunday, December 20 will be the members of Craig von Stein's Undershepherd group.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY (December 6 – December 12)

TODAY Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30; Communion; Adult Bible Study 9:20; Teen Bible Class 9:20; **Call meeting 11:45**; Elders 1:00 (meeting at school); Church decorating 1:30.

MON MWM 9:30.

TUE MWM 9:30.

WED Handbells 6:30; On-Line Catechism 6:30; Outreach 6:30.

THU Bible Information Class 6:30.

SUN **Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30**; Children's Lesson; Adult Bible Study; Teen Bible Study 9:20.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MON Faculty meeting 3:30; A & B Team Basketball Practice 3:30 to 5:00.

WED Chapel 8:20; A & B Team Basketball Practice 3:30 to 5:00.

HOLY COMMUNION: The Bible teaches us that Holy Communion is a public demonstration of participants' united confession of the Bible's teachings (1 Cor. 10:17). Since we strive to follow all that the Bible teaches, we believe that members of this congregation or the WELS or ELS synod are united in the true teaching and may commune together. All guests should speak with a pastor before Communion, to first determine if unity of faith exists. We're eager to establish a unity of faith and to declare this oneness at Communion with you.

CALL MEETING *today* immediately following the 2nd service (approximately 11:45). This meeting is to call a kindergarten teacher. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

PRAYERS are requested for the family of Merritt Nessler. Merritt was called to his heavenly home earlier this week. The funeral service will be held in church on tomorrow, December 7th at 11:00a.m., with visitation beginning at 10:00a.m. May the peace of our ascended Savior comfort those who mourn.

DOOR OFFERING: There will be a door offering on Sunday, December 20th to help support the LWMS mission projects (postponed from November). The Fall Rally of the Ohio Circuit was cancelled this year, along with many other fundraisers. Ladies Aid is asking for our support for this worthy cause!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School lesson packets for three-year-olds, containing lessons 9-13, are available for pick up in the narthex. Packets are labeled with each child's name. Sunday School for Pre-school through 8th grade continues by lessons-on-video at nph.net/ss-at-home. The Bible lesson for today/this week is #13, "The Israelites Enter the Promised Land," which is the last in the packet that you have. There are new packets to pick up for Pre-school through 8th grade on a table in the narthex that go with the videos. This winter series will begin on Sunday, December 13. May God bless your child/children as we together continue to share His love.

COME ONE, COME ALL! Church Christmas decorating will take place *this afternoon* at 1:30. Join us in making our church beautiful for the birth of our Savior.

THANK YOU to Kyara Koepsell and Julia Lisanti for performing during the Distribution in early service and pre-service music before late service. What a blessing it is to have these two ladies in our church!

UNDER THE SEA: Explore Under the Sea at Mornings with Mommy on Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8 from 9:30-10:30. You and your children can enjoy ocean themed songs, toys, crafts, and activities. Play in our ocean sensory bin, make a paper plate octopus, scoop blue pasta shells, and sort ocean animals. Watch out for the sharks! Register online at tlcjenera.org or call 262-391-7994.

CHRISTMAS SHUT-IN DONATIONS - Anyone wishing to donate items may place them in the tote located by the south entrance of the church by December 31st. Suggested items include: body-lotion, powder or soap, emery boards, Chapstick, mouth wash, shampoo, facial tissues, boost/ensure, candy, or monetary (cash in an envelope) gifts. *Non-perishable* items only, please. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Weihrauch, Mary Ann Gallant, Mary Heldman or Stacy Heldman from the Ladies Aid Committee.

RETURNED HOME: Jean Ritter has returned home where she is continuing to recover from a broken hip. Marvin will remain as a resident at Mennonite Memorial in Bluffton. Please keep them both in your prayers.

THE SCAVENGER HUNT scheduled for this Saturday, December 12th has been cancelled.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED also for John and Mary Gauss, who were in an automobile accident on Thanksgiving, and for Gary Beach, who has been diagnosed with Covid. Please remember them and all of our fellow members who hospitalized, homebound and those in nursing homes.

OFFERINGS: Offerings may be placed in the offering plates at the front or back of church. You may also submit your offering by mail to Trinity Lutheran School at 105 Allen Street, or drop it off at the school during school hours. You may also sign up for e-giving through the church website at www.tlcjenera.org.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED to be worn in public places, including here at church, according to the governor's guidelines. Anyone with a medical reason for not wearing a mask is asked to sit in the front wing seats. Please keep your mask on during service. If you are sick, please stay home for the health and safety of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

TLS NEEDS YOU! The school is *still* in need of someone to record the Children's Christmas Eve service. Because of COVID, we are doing things a little differently this year. The service will be recorded and shown in church on December 23rd and Christmas Eve. We need someone to record for us on December 18th from 8:45am to noon. Please help if you can!

GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY in Arlington has put out a plea for prayers. They have had a surge in Covid-19 cases among their residents and staff. Many staff members are out sick and those who remain are working long hours. Let's show them some love and kindness with our prayers and generosity. While there are restrictions on what we can take to residents, there are none for staff members. They would welcome food items, snacks, treats, small gift items or cards of encouragement. There are about 30 employees (3 of them are men). Items can be delivered to the Powell Drive entrance. Either phone or ring the doorbell and someone will come out to get it.

DON'T FORGET! Sunday services are recorded each Sunday and uploaded to YouTube. If you are unable to attend live services on Sunday, please be sure to check it out on line. You may find the link on the website (www.tlcjenera.org) or on YouTube (search Trinity Lutheran Church Jenera). We are also on Facebook (search [Trinity Lutheran School](#) or [Friends in Christ Trinity Lutheran Church Jenera, Oh](#)) An easy way to get the link is to sign up for emails that will have the link and the sermon text attached. Call or email the office if you would care to sign up.

ALTAR FLOWERS for the month of December are the work of Jerry Burkholder. Each year Jerry volunteers to take orders and care for the lovely poinsettias that grace the front of our church all during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Thank you, Jerry, for your hard work and dedication!

CHRISTMAS EVE and Christmas Day services will be televised live in the church basement for overflow seating. If you are uncomfortable sitting in the narthex, please make use of the two TVs in the basement- one in the main room and one in the classroom.

CALL RESPONSE

Dear Member of Trinity Lutheran Church,

I am writing to confirm that I received the call packet yesterday and to thank you for extending a call to be your pastor. It is truly a privilege and an honor to be a pastor in our Lord's Church and also that you honored me by extending this call to me. I apologize that I didn't respond sooner, my family and I were on a vacation and I wasn't able to acknowledge in writing that I have received your call.

My family and I have already been discussing this opportunity and have offered a lot of prayers to our heavenly Father on behalf of our family and also on behalf your family at Trinity.

Over the next number of days we will continue discussing and praying that the Holy Spirit lead us as He sees fit to make a decision that will serve Him best in His Kingdom. I ask for your prayers as well. We will continue to pray for you. May God bless you and may His grace be with you always.

In Christ's Service

Rev. Matthew J. Schaewe

Rev. Schaewe may be contacted at 313-570-0591.



Peace

PLEASE USE the list of our shut-ins below to send a Christmas card and as a reminder to pray for them.

BLUFFTON (zip code 45817)

Mrs. Betty Heldman 100 Hawthorne Ct.
Mr. & Mrs. David Boehm 21649 Co. Rd 12
Mrs. Glenna Marquart Mennonite Home, 410 W. Elm St, room 205

GOOD SAMARITAN

100 Powell Dr., Arlington, OH 45814
Mr. Gary Beach Room 203
Mrs. Wilda von Stein Room 105
Mrs. Jeanine Hindall
Mrs. Sandy Reel 521 W. Main Cross, Arlington

FINDLAY (zip code 45840)

Miss Janice Reichley St. Catherine's Manor, Room 21, 2101 Greendale Ave..
Mrs. Doris Webb Birchaven, Foxglove Room 35, 15100 Birchaven Lane
Mrs. Ann Crawford 107 East Eagle Street

JENERA (zip code 45841)

Mrs. Genevieve Smith 7845 St. Rt. 103
Mrs. Karen Rausch 7445 St. Rt. 103
Mrs. Gary (Karen) Beach 201 East Sandusky
Mrs. James (Marilyn) Rausch 107 South High St

ADA (zip code 45810)

Mr. Norman Schaller Vancrest of Ada, 600 W. North Ave.

