



Sunday, December 13, 2020

Advent 3

Worship focus: *Christmas Came Anyway:
Even when it seemed impossible.*

OPENING HYMN

39 – “Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One” (*verses 1, 3, & 7 to
the tune of hymn 16*)

(The “Amen” is sung after the last hymn only.)

**1. Now praise we Christ, the Holy One,
The blessed virgin Mary's Son.
From east to west, from shore to shore
Let earth its Lord and King adore.**

**3. The grace and pow'r of God the Lord
Upon the mother was outpoured;
A virgin pure and undefiled
In wondrous way conceived a child.**

**7. All honor unto Christ the Lord,
Eternal and incarnate Word,
With Father and with Holy Ghost,
Till time in endless time be lost.**

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON – Deuteronomy 4:32-40

God does things no one else can do.

Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? ³³Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? ³⁴Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? ³⁵You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. ³⁶From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. ³⁷Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, ³⁸to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today. ³⁹Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. ⁴⁰Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 25

Spoken responsively

P: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

C: in you I trust, O my God.

P: Remember, O Lord, you great mercy and love,

C: for they are from of old.

P: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways,

C: according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.

P: Turn to me and be gracious to me,

C: for I am lonely and afflicted.

P: Look upon my affliction and my distress

C: and take away all my sins.

C: Guard my life and rescue me.

C: for I take refuge in you.

**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 – Hebrews 11:1-6

God makes the impossible possible. Trust him to give and strengthen our faith.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)

Please stand.

GOSPEL – Luke 1:26-38

It didn't matter that it was impossible for Mary to be pregnant!

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S LESSON *(Children, please remain in your seats with your families.)*

HYMN OF THE DAY 24 – "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (verses 2 & 3)

2. "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:

A blessed virgin mother you shall be.

Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,

Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;

"To me be as it pleases God," she said.

"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."

Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

SERMON Text: **Luke 1:26-38**

Theme: "That's impossible!" "No, it's not."

- 1) Not for a gracious God.
- 2) Not for the trusting heart.

Please stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocation, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

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.

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.

CLOSING HYMN

28 – “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” (verses 1, 3, & 5)

**1. Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

**3. Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord –
Him of twofold race behold –
Truly came, as long foretold.**

**5. Crush for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
Safely kept through life and death,**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Matt Nowak
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Church/School Secretary
School Office: 419-326-4685
Email: tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org
Website: tlcjenera.org

GREETERS today are:

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

Next Sunday:

Mark & Kathi Curth – Early Service
Mike & Jill Woodward – Late Service

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (week of December 6, 2020)

Total Worship Attendance: 154; Early: 66; Late: 88; Adult Bible Study: 24; Mornings with Mommy: 31 . On-line worship service views for November 29 were 40. On-line views for Thanksgiving were 37.

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 13 – December 19)

TODAY Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30; Children's Lesson; Door offering for LWMS; Adult Bible Study 9:20; Teen Bible Class 9:20;

MON Board of Education 6:30; Ladies Aid Advent Service 7:00.

WED Handbells 6:30; Bible Information Class 6:30.

THU On-Line Catechism 6:30.

SUN **Worship 8:00 AM & 10:30;** Communion; Adult Bible Study; Teen Bible Study 9:20.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MON A & B Team Basketball Practice 3:30 to 5:00; B & C Basketball Practice 5:00 - 6:15

WED Chapel 8:20; A & B Team Basketball Practice 3:30 to 5:00; B & C Basketball Practice 5:00 - 6:15

CHILDREN'S LESSON: Children are asked to remain in their seats during the lesson.

DOOR OFFERING: There will be a door offering today 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S SERVICE will be December 23, 1:00 and December 24 at 7:00. Things will be a little different this year- the children's presentation will be recorded and shown on the screens for each service. Join us as we hear the message of Jesus, the Light of the World, through this special program "Light for Our Darkness". The service will be posted on-line by 7:00pm on the 24th.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE is December 25th at 9:30. Both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be televised live in the church basement, for overflow seating. If you feel uncomfortable sitting in the sanctuary, please feel free to make use of the two TVs in the basement- one in the main room and one in the classroom. The Christmas Day service will also be posted on-line by 7:00pm on Christmas day.

THE GREATEST GIFT: The Ladies Aid is forgoing their traditional December Christmas party for an Advent Service - *The Greatest Gift*, which will be held tomorrow evening, December 14th, at 7:00pm. All ladies of the congregation and guests are invited. We will meet in the sanctuary, practicing our social distancing and wearing masks as mandated by the governor. Please join us for this special worship opportunity.

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School lesson packets for three-year-olds, containing lessons 14-18, are available for pick up in the narthex. Packets are labeled with each child's name and are on the left side of the table. 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 #1, "God Gives His People the City of Jericho," which is the first lesson in the new packet. Winter packets of lessons that go with the videos, can be picked up for Pre-school through 8th grade from a table in the narthex. May God bless your child/children as we together continue to share His love.

GREETING CARDS: Boxes of greeting cards are for sale in the church basement. They are on a rack in a south window in the west room. The cost is written on the back of each box. Please put the money in the box beside the rack.

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.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex through December 20th. Please retrieve them and double check the address. If the address is incorrect, please contact Clark Inniger at 419-306-0127 or email tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org or cdinniger@roadrunner.com. After the 20th, the envelopes will be in the basement. *These are for use beginning in January 2021. Please don't use until then!*

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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Decorating Committee for making our beautiful church ready for this special season!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS, PARTY! Come celebrate Jesus' birthday at the next Mornings with Mommy on Monday, December 21 or Tuesday, December 22. Bring your children/grandchildren to hear the story of Jesus' birth, stack presents, make a Christmas star ornament, have pretend birthday cake, and use play dough with cookie cutters. Register online at tlcjenera.org or call 262-391-7994.

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.

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. For those who are uncomfortable sitting in the sanctuary, we now have two TV's in the basement where you may watch all services live.

HVL CHRISTMAS CONCERT CANCELED Unfortunately, we are unable to invite everyone on campus for our annual Christmas concert this year; however, once we have our students back on campus, we are looking to record a few pieces to make available online.

DECEMBER DEVOTIONS FROM WOMEN'S MINISTRY The new December devotion series from Women's Ministry is designed to help you stay refreshed in the Word and focused on Christ. Written by your sisters in Christ, these daily devotions will bring you Biblical encouragement and insights. Built on Scripture, these devotions will give different perspectives of Christmas from many different women in the account of Christ's birth. Stop for just a moment to receive the peace and strength that only God's Word can bring. Sign up at wels.net/womens-ministry to receive these devotions in your e-mail and feel free to share them with others!

WELCOME! Thank you for joining our Trinity family in worship today. We invite you to keep growing with us through God's Word and Sacraments. If you have a question, please speak to a deacon or any Trinity member. Ask the ushers if you need a pocket-sized aid for the hearing impaired. Large print bulletins are also available; check with a deacon. A Nursery with our service on TV is located off the lobby for parents who need to calm young children.

PLEASE RESERVE the back pews for families with small children to lovingly provide this space for the little ones and their parents.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Second Advent candle is called the Bethlehem Candle. It represents the coming on earth of Jesus the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. This coming is recalled for us in Luke 2.

The Third Advent candle, the pink one, is called the Shepherd Candle. It represents the coming of the Savior into our hearts through faith in His holy Word. Even as the shepherds saw their Savior with their own eyes and believed, so now we see Him through the eyes of faith. We hear the account of the shepherds in Luke 2:15-20.



CALL RESPONSES

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

On November 29th, I received a Divine Call to serve at your school as Principal and 7-8 teacher. I thank God for the opportunity to consider this call and how my God-given abilities can best serve Him. It is a blessing to serve the Lord in my current call and also humbling to be called to your congregation. As I continue to deliberate both the current call I hold to St. Matthew's and the call to teach at Trinity, I ask that you keep me in your prayers and offer your input to help me during this time. Thank you for your continued support.

Serving you in Christ,
Kevin Lorge
920-851-5360

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church:

On Sunday, December 6th, I received a divine call from the voters of your church to serve as the kindergarten teacher. I am humbled to receive your call and grateful for the opportunity to consider how my gifts may best serve the kingdom of God. I join in with the Apostle Paul as he wrote in Ephesians 3:7, "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power." In the next few weeks, I will be in communication with the leadership of your church and school. As I consider the two calls I am privileged to hold, I ask for your prayers. I will also keep your school and your congregation in my prayers during this deliberation process. Hold fast to the words of scripture which say, "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you."

In Christ,
Hannah Holzhueter

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.

