



# Trinity Tidings

December 11, 2025

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If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone, place your order by Sunday, December 14. Each plant costs \$20.00 and will decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas services. You may take it home after Christmas.

Complete the card and insert it along with your payment into the envelope. It can be placed with the offerings or on Amy's desk. Cards and envelopes are at the Info Center outside of the church office.

## December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday, December 14 - SS Singing

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Trinity Times 10 AM
- **No Story Time**

Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16

- Council 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 17

- Advent Worship 6:30 PM
- Confirmation 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 18

- Adult Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts & Friends 6 PM

Friday, December 19

Saturday, December 20

Sunday, December 21 - SS Singing

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM
- Trinity Times 10 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Joy to the World

Join in worship this season!

Devotions on TrinityNewLondon.com:

Posted every Wednesday afternoon December 3-17

Advent Worship Services:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. December 3-17

Sunday School Singing:

December 14 worship service at 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship: 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.\*

Christmas Day Worship: 9 a.m.

\*The 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will not be livestreamed.

Hearing Loop available

709 W. Beckert Rd. | New London | 920.982.5833

Watch live or recorded at TrinityNewLondon.com

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

8 AM - 12 noon

Other times by appointment

## Prayers & Praises

Email or call with your request.

- Family and friends of Joy Flohr
- Mary Snyder - health concerns
- Annie Krueger - mother of Samantha Kable, health concerns
- Stephanie Nelson - cousin on Marta Wesenick, recurrent ovarian cancer
- John Schremp - family friend of Marta Wesenick, failing health
- Azim & Hamida and their families
- Leonard Blank - father of Trista Jo Westphal
- Jodie Laatsch - cancer
- Jill Willner - cancer
- Bonnie Robertson - aunt of Dixie Hill, hospice
- Patricia Erb - sister of Kelly Lehl, stroke and cancer
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, cancer
- Jerry Carls - friend of Tom Luba, cancer
- Paul Dobrydnia - friend of Tom Luba, recovering from a stroke
- Jaxson Empey - nephew of Woody Haag
- Juliette Ort - granddaughter of Lisa & Donn Howard; leukemia
- Sarah Hughes - relative of Terry & Lois Wegner, cancer
- Gene Guth - partner of Susan Millard and friend of Nancy Millard - cancer
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns



## SIGN UP TO HELP FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

*If you are willing to serve as an usher, lector, communion assistant, slide presenter or live streamer during the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day Services, please sign up at the info center.*



## Advent: A time to give

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we invite you to share Christ's love with others. Please consider giving to one of our Advent mission focuses.

- 2026 Stewardship Initiative: Second camera for live stream/Furnace Fund
- Azim and Hamida
- Grab and Go Meals

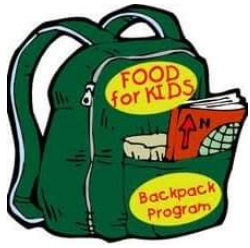


*If you are experiencing grief or loss, we invite you to eat, listen, pray and sing with us*

## Blue Christmas Service

December 21, 2024 6 pm  
Free light Dinner at 5 pm  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
New London, WI

## DECEMBER JOY OF GIVING Project Backpack New London



The last day of the school week, participating children receive a backpack filled with food and snacks for the weekend. On the first day of the school week, the child returns the empty backpack to be restocked.

In today's difficult economic times, an increasing number of parents are finding it hard to provide food for their families. Although free or reduced breakfast and lunches have helped, many children still go hungry during the weekends away from school. School personnel identify possible participants and then parents are invited to participate in the program.

Volunteers are needed to pack backpacks, deliver them to schools and pick up returned backpacks, purchase groceries and supplies, stock shelves, package bulk food items into individual portions, and provide needed funds and resources. Check and share our Facebook page, Project Backpack New London!

TW-ELCA/Support & Service will be putting together Christmas treat tins for our senior members and shut-ins after worship on Sunday, December 14th.

Please consider donating a dozen or two cookies or candies and/or holiday tins. We will also need help assembling tins and delivering them.

See Dawn Hess for more information or to volunteer.

**Trinity Times coffee hour after church service is a great time to visit with one another.**

Is this a ministry you can participate in? We need people to help maintain this fellowship opportunity!

Weekly, we need a person to make coffee, host and clean up. We need a few people to bring in snacks.

**Please look at the sign up sheet in the Trinity Times area and sign up for one or more weeks!**

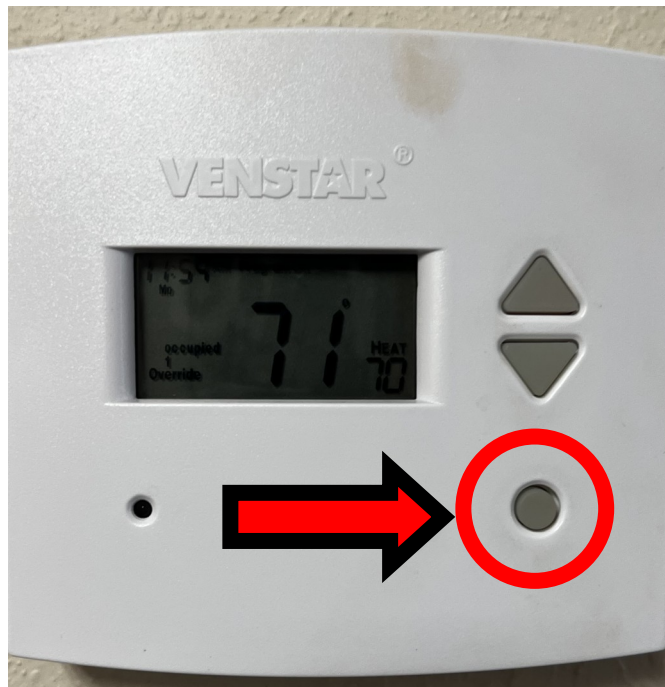


Intent cards will be received through the end of the year. Place them in the offering tray or on Amy's desk. Thank you for helping with our 2026 financial planning.



# Reminder

All gifts to Trinity need to be received by December 31 to be included in the 2025 contribution records.



To adjust the heat or AC, please use the override button which is indicated in the picture. It works in 1/2 hour increments up to four hours, then switches back to running the program. If you need more time, simply bump it again. Adjust the temperature via the arrow buttons. There is no need to open the door or to use any of the other buttons. The thermostat in the conference rooms works differently so follow the instructions posted by it. We have unnecessarily been heating/cooling sections of the building because the thermostats are improperly set. If you have any questions, please ask Terry Lathrop or Amy.

**Thank you!!**




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God's work. Our hands.

## December Sunday School

- **December 14 & 21:** Story time will be held in the library for children ages birth to 3K.
- **December 7:** Enjoy a presentation of The Christmas Story in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., followed by our final choir rehearsal before our performance next week. Parents/guardians are invited to join in the fun!
- **December 14:** Singing in church at 9 a.m. (please have your student in the Lower Level by 8:40 a.m.). Join us at 10 a.m. in the Lower Level for a Christmas party for students and their parents/guardians!
- **December 21 & 28:** Christmas break. No Sunday School classes.

*\*Unless otherwise listed, please drop off Sunday School students at main sanctuary door in the upper level parking lot. Pick up students at the lower level parking lot.*



## Mid-Week Advent Readings and Sermon

**First Reading: Numbers 24:15-19**

**Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-16**

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-33**

Star of David

Do you remember David?

He was perhaps the greatest king in Jewish history.

He was a mighty warrior who conquered the nations of Moab and Edom and through him God established a mighty kingdom.

He did not start out as a king.

He was a shepherd boy, the youngest in the family, the 8th son of a man named Jesse, in a little town called Bethlehem.

When the prophet Samuel was looking for a replacement for King Saul, who was basically being fired, David's father Jesse almost forgot about him. Samuel passed over the older brothers until Jesse said "O yeah, there's my youngest, but he's keeping the sheep."

Have any of you been overlooked?

I was the youngest of 6. Including 3 brothers.

I was often "Mark, Paul, John, Chuck" to my parents.

I've done the same thing to my kids.

I am used to being overlooked.

But God chooses David, the most unlikely candidate, to be the next king.

First he slays the giant Goliath with stones and a slingshot.

Eventually he succeeds Saul.

He has some personal failures but repents and continues on.

Many of the Psalms are attributed to him.

Then there is the covenant God makes with him.

The Davidic Covenant is God's promise to King David, recorded in 2 Samuel 7, that his royal lineage and throne would endure forever, establishing an eternal dynasty, fulfilled ultimately in Jesus Christ,

the ultimate descendant of David, whose kingdom is everlasting.

God does things his way.

Not the way the world works.

Same with his choosing Mary.

Insignificant young girl.

Kingdom could be "the way God runs things, the way God gets things done."

God does not see things the way we do.

God chooses each of us to do his will no matter what the world thinks.

God makes the insignificant significant.

When we look at the stars, the tiny dots in the sky, each one looks puny.

But each one on its own can produce tremendously powerful amounts of light and heat.

This is how God works.

God took the form of a helpless infant, who grew into a man who gave his life in a cross and rose again from the dead.

This is not how the world works, but this is how God gets things done.

Thank God. Amen.



# SUNDAY READINGS

## Third Sunday of Advent

### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!"  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Psalm 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all  
that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;  
<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and  
food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.  
<sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

### Second Reading: James 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



## Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

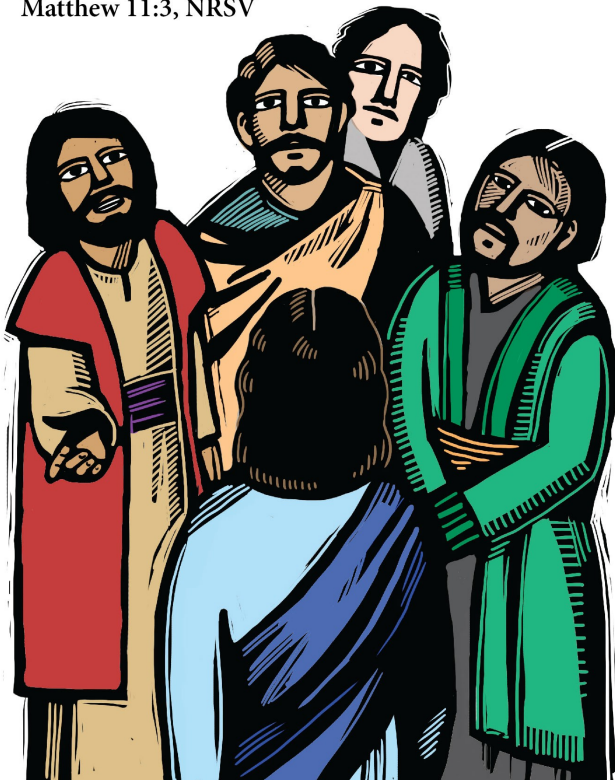
<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**"Are you the one who is to come,  
or are we to wait for another?"**

Matthew 11:3, NRSV



# SERMON NOTES

## Patience

Lord grant me patience, but please hurry up!

We all know that patience is a virtue, but how easy is it to practice it?

It's not been easy for me.

Especially this time of year when I was younger.

During the Advent season I could not wait for Christmas morning, which was when we normally opened presents and then had a feast afterwards.

I would look at the calendar and count the days. December 1st, 24 days to go, December 2nd, 23 days, etc.

At least my mom made cookies early in the season so we had some goodies before the final celebration to tide us over.

We would watch the TV specials, Charlie Brown, Rudolf, Frosty, and of course the Grinch.

My parents played Christmas music constantly, especially their old Fred Waring album to keep us in the mood.

And we had the Advent wreath we used for daily devotions at dinner time. I would, of course, count the weeks.

It seemed to me that it took forever for Christmas to come.

Now as I get older, time really flies faster.

The seasons come and go so quickly.

But I still struggle with patience.

I want to fix things right away.

If someone is hurting I want to take their pain away.

If someone is angry I want to solve the issue immediately.

I want God to make all things right now!

In our James passage for today the author tells this Christian community to "Be patient, therefore, broth-

ers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.”

The word translated “coming” comes from the word “parousia,” which was often associated in the ancient world with the anticipated arrival of a royal or dignitary figure, which would have been accompanied by festal celebration and communal procession to mark the occasion.

2000 years ago James tells the church to “be patient” until the Lord’s coming, when Jesus is going to come back as a royal figure and make all things right.

Well it has not happened yet.

We’re still waiting.

But how do we “be patient?”

What do we do as we wait for him?

James’ words of wisdom still apply to us today.

James says just as farmers waiting for crops or for rain, we too exert patience. But patience is not the same thing as complacency or apathy or sitting idly by waiting for something to happen. After all, the farmer in this passage has certainly done his work! But the rain and the resulting crop yield is not entirely up to him. As biblical scholar Elsa Támez notes, “patience,” for James, is not passive or submissive because nothing can be done. It is, instead, a “militant patience” that is an active, working patience—like that of a farmer, or those who strive for justice (another concern of James), or “the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”

Waiting for Jesus involves doing his will, which is caring for the poor and the oppressed, welcoming the strangers.

The old expression “actions speak louder than words” fits the main message of James.

“Faith without works is dead” is the most famous passage.

Being patient means doing what Jesus did until he returns. He cared for everyone.

James also encourages the community to be patient together as we all await Jesus’ coming. “Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another so that you may not be judged.”

Part of being patient is bearing with one another.

We all can be impatient with one another.

Especially this time of year when there are so many demands and expectations.

It has been said “expectations are invitations to disappointment.”

We can get so caught up in the festivities that we forget to

care for the people around us.

In the midst of this James says “hang in there.”

Love and serve one another, especially the most vulnerable.

We do not know when Jesus will return to make all things right.

In the cross we see we can trust in him and his resurrection we see that he is still alive and well in us until his final victory.

But in the meantime we see him in one another.

In the voices of kids.

In the smiles, the hugs we share.

Comforting the grieving.

Enjoying fellowship.

Being patient.

Living one day at a time.

Amen.

## Serving at worship this Sunday

### Ushers

Peter Kurth, Mark Moser

### Lector

Cherine Gagnow

### Communion Assistant

Cherine Gagnow

### Musician

Sally McCormick

### Slides

Kelly Lehl

### Livestream

Terry Lathrop

### Altar Guild

Jayne Murphy, Sue Krejcarek

