

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
“UNCONSUMING FIRE”

REV. TIMOTHY D. SMITH

8AM & 9:30AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021 IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
“UNCONSUMING FIRE”

REV. TIMOTHY D. SMITH

8AM & 9:30AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

FOCUS Preparing for Christmas, we buy presents, attend social gatherings, decorate, make plans to gather with family, and some will brace for the pain of grief that can be so difficult this time of year. In the middle of all our preparing, today the voice of John the Baptist rings out, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Undergirding all the preparing we are doing is preparing for the Lord. John calls us to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” In worship, we do just that. We repent. We turn again to God, seeking His mercy, receiving His forgiveness, partaking of His grace. This leads to bearing the fruit of the Spirit. John highlights the fruit of generosity and contentment. What fruit is God calling you to bear as you prepare for Christmas?

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING of the BELLS and WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

INVOCATION

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 25:6-7

L Brothers and sisters in Christ, James, the brother of our Lord Jesus instructs us saying, “confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” Let us then confess our sins to God our Father and receive the healing he longs to give us.

(A time of silence is observed.)

We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

C Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

L Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

HYMN

“Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent”

For - give us, Lord, for times when peace was lost, And mo - ments when we
nev - er thought to love, For times when we op - press and of -
fend And fight for things that kill us in the end.
For - give, for - give, for - give us all our sins
And help us be in peace with all our kin.

L Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

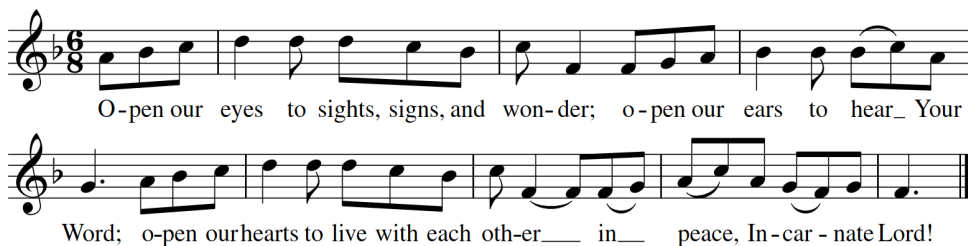
L In this season of longing and anticipation, as streets fill with shoppers, bright lights, and tempting offers, You lead us, Lord, along a different path to a desert river and a prophetic voice

C – a call to repentance, a call to service, a call to immerse ourselves in living water that will never run dry, a call to prepare a way in our own lives for the Savior of the world to enter in, to know the touch of tender mercy and rest in Your forgiving love. Amen.

(Two Advent candles are lit.)

Cantor/Choir: In this season of longing and anticipation, God is at work in the heart of creation, offering all new life and salvation: A voice cries out, “Prepare!”

ALL:



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SALUTATION and PRAYER of the DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi 3:1-7b

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵ “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶ “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷ From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:2-11

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Cries a Voice”

Behnke

Dawn Graveen, soprano; Barb Rademaker, alto

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-20

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do."¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ,¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done,²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

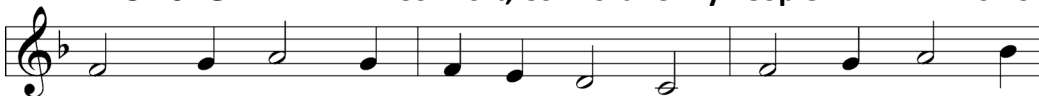
L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN of the DAY

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

"Unconsuming Fire"

Rev. Timothy D. Smith

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 worshipped 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

L As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to repent—to turn each day to You, confessing our sins and being restored by You to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to bear fruits in keeping with repentance. Bless our Senior Pastor Call Committee and fill them with wisdom and discernment. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter

humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Lord of might, empower us to hear the words of John the Baptist afresh today. Lead us to repent of those things that hinder our trust in You and fill us by the Holy Spirit to bear much fruit. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

L You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING of TITHES and OFFERINGS

MISSION STATEMENT: *To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.*

VISION STATEMENT: *To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

(8:00am)

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

arr. Keesecker

(9:30am)

"All Creatures of Our God and King" 4th & 5th Grade Choir

Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

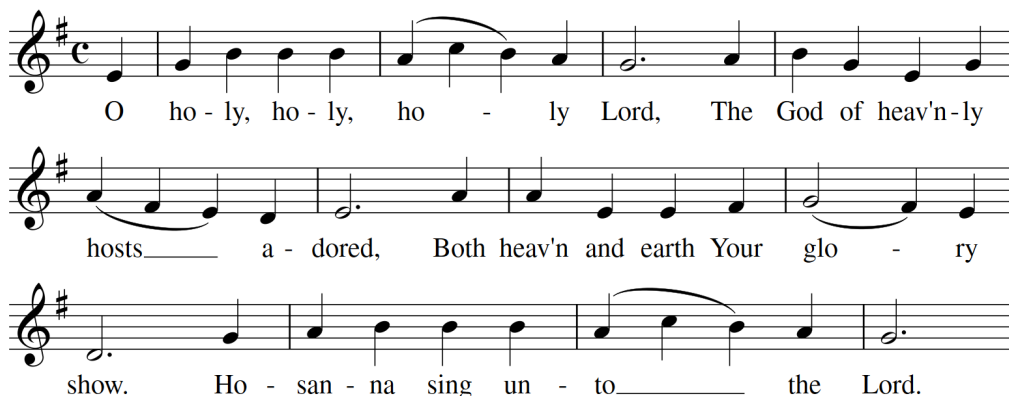
2 Timothy 4:22

- L** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
L Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

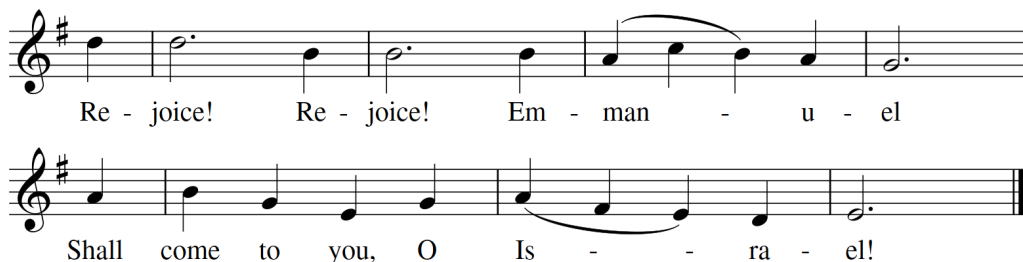
PROPER PREFACE

- L** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS HYMN



O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, The God of heav'n - ly
hosts a - dored, Both heav'n and earth Your glo - ry
show. Ho - san - na sing un - to the Lord.



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THE WORDS of INSTITUTION

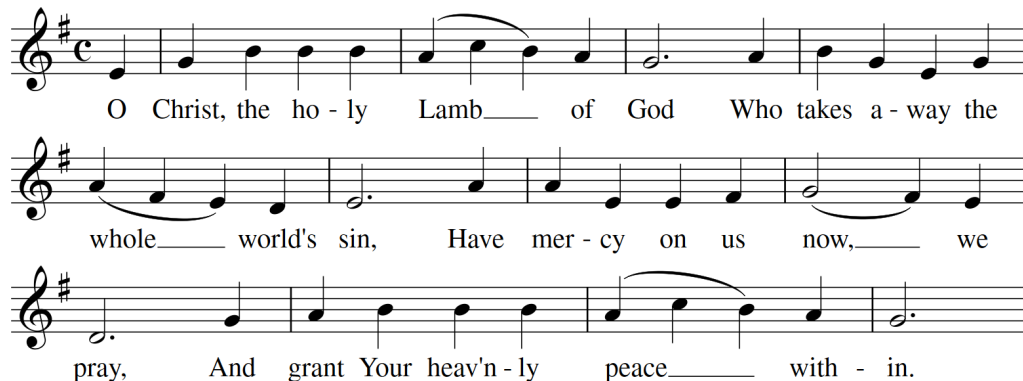
The LORD'S PRAYER

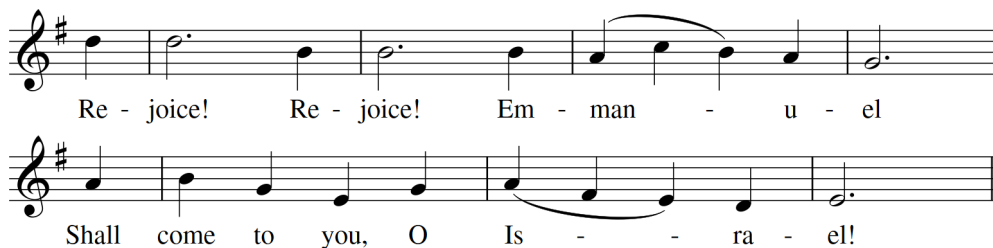
- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

- L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN





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WORDS of INSTITUTION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Gluten Free Wafers are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB 333

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Revelation 15:3-4, 11:15

- L** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in body and soul to life everlasting. Let us depart in peace.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** Let us pray. Thank You, Lord, for this gift of Christ’s body and blood. Prepare our hearts by this great gift to love You and to serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- L** 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.**

DISMISSAL

- L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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POSTLUDE

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. Timothy D. Smith, Associate Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Bruce Lamont*

ORGANIST: *Mr. Matthew Hoehne, Director of Music*

ELDERS: *8am—Terry Knoll, Todd Hauer; 9:30am—Michael Hase*

ACOLYTES: *8am— ; 9:30am—Denali Stangl*

TECH: *8am— ; 9:30am—Max Gorr*

COFFEE HOST: *Properties Committee*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

Please sign the *Friendship & Attendance Book* as it is passed during the service.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE UPPER SANCTUARY—

8am & 9:30am Sunday

BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SLC—

5pm Saturday & 10:45am Sunday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month in the Upper Sanctuary and the 2nd & 4th Saturdays & Sundays in the Spiritual Life Center (SLC). We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—two nurseries are for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. The lower level nursery located near the SLC will be available for parent use as well on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. *Please Note: The upper and lower level nurseries will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 9:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade Day School, our Early Childhood Learning Center (infant through 13 years), and through our association with Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High School.
- **COFFEE HOUR**—You're invited to the Church Lounge between services for coffee & fellowship.
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please indicate so on the *Friendship & Attendance Book* and we will contact you.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.

VISION STATEMENT:

To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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