

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministers: People of Holy Trinity

The Reverend J. Chris Fischer, Pastor

209 Broad Street

Anderson, SC 29621

Pastor Fischer's

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Secretary's 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Mon-Wed)

Office Hours 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Thursday)

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Website: www.htlc-anderson.org

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a family of Christians saved by God's grace
to proclaim the good news to our community and to the world by word and action.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

December 17, 2023

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *"Prepare Thyself Zion"*

J.S. Bach

*The Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

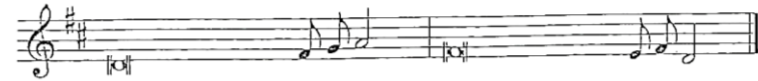
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (we kneel)

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(we stand)



Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the for-¹ tunes of Zion,
then were we like ¹ those who dream.

**²Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with ¹ shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great ¹ things for them."**

**³The LORD has done great ¹ things for us,
and we are ¹ glad indeed.**

**⁴Restore our for-¹ tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses ¹ of the Negeb.**

**⁵Those who ¹ sowed with tears
will reap with ¹ songs of joy.**

**⁶Those who go out weeping, carry-¹ ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder-¹ ing their sheaves.**

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WE ARE COLLECTING NEEDED ITEMS FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR CUPBOARD. - ITEMS INCLUDE:

Peanut Butter, rice, dried beans, pasta, canned meat, canned fruit, canned soup, oatmeal, grits, flour, sugar, cereal, cooking oil—cleaning/personal hygiene list: bath soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet tissue, laundry soap, bleach, cleaning solutions (Lysol, Mr. Clean for example). Please note: perishables are not included.



POINSETTIAS for the Christmas Eve services will be provided this year for \$12.50. Donors will be listed in the worship bulletin for the Christmas Eve services. If you would like to place an order for one or more, please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or send to the Church office. The **deadline** is Sunday, December 17th. Payment must accompany your order. Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve. (Please leave the three white poinsettias in the manger.)

Enclosed is _____ for _____ poinsettias.

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

OTHER (To the Glory of God) _____

Given by _____

The offering envelopes are in the Narthex; please ask the usher for your box of envelopes.

All offerings to be credited to 2023 must be received by December 31ST.

Offerings received after this date cannot be credited to 2023.

With the New Year approaching, we will be working on the Annual Report.

Early reminder, 2023 annual reports are due on or before Sunday, January 7. All 2023 Committee Chairs are to turn in a report to the church office.

*Hymn **“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”** **Hymn #246**

*The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*The Kyrie (sung responsively)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

*The Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of Your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of Your prophets, that, anointed by Your Spirit, we may testify to Your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Children’s Sermon

Lighting of the Advent Wreath **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** Stanzas 1,2&3 **Hymn #257**

The First Lesson (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11) **Bulletin Cover**

Psalms 126 **Bulletin Inside Cover**

The Second Lesson (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24) **Bulletin Cover**

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all) **Alleluia. I am sending my messen ' ger before you who will prepare your ' way before you. Alleluia.** (Matthew 11:10)

The gospel is announced: The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*The Holy Gospel (John 1:6-8, 19-28) **Bulletin Cover**

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon **“REJOICE ALWAYS”**

*Hymn of the Month **“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”** **Hymn # 247**

SERVING YOU TODAY – December 17, 2023

*The 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

The Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation. (we kneel)

The Leader concludes each petition with “Lord In Your Mercy,” and the response is, “Hear our Prayer.”

Minister..... Pastor Chris Fischer
Organist/Choir Director.....Jill Helgeson
Acolytes.....(E) Lucy Roehrs (L) Landen Moody
Lectors.....(E) Robert Allen (L) Sandi Dickson
Assisting Ministers.....(E) Steven House (L) Sandi Dickson
Video/IT Engineer.....Paul Wagner/Christopher Caldwell/Connor Caldwell
Tabulators.....Chris & Anna Caldwell
(E) Chris Caldwell (Captain) Christopher Caldwell, Connor Caldwell, Kevin Lockhart,
Leon Chute
(L) Mike Oates (Captain) Mike Metz, Bobbi Metz, Michael Oates
Church Secretary.....Pat Ross
PresidentBobbi Metz
Vice-President.....Beth Cribbe
Treasurer.....Diane Richardson
Financial Secretary.....Jane Potter
Council Secretary.....Connor Caldwell

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

December 17 – December 23

TODAY

8:45 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Early Choir Practice (after worship)
10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School Class (Youth Room)
10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 p.m. Congregational Christmas Chili and Caroling (Fellowship Hall)

TUES.

6:00 p.m. Women’s Group Bible Study (Pairs and Spares Room)

WED.

10:00 a.m. T.O.P.S. (Pairs and Spares Room)
6:00 p.m. Advent Meal (Host – Youth) (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Choir practice after worship

FRI.

6:30 p.m. Choir Christmas Gathering (Helgeson Home)

ATTENDANCE Sunday Worship Services – December 10 – 8:45 a.m. (28) 11:00 a.m. (78)

Advent Worship Service – December 13 – 7:00 p.m. (32)

OFFERINGS RECEIVED December 10 – Operating Fund \$4,068.00, Utilities Fund \$105.00, Endowment Fund \$100.00, Poinsettias Fund \$77.50, Lutheran Men In Mission Fund \$380.00, Advent Offering \$90.00

LOOKING AHEAD

**One-Combined Worship
Sunday Morning Worship December 24
Worship Assistants**

Acolyte	10:00 a.m.	
Lector	Brady West	
	Mike Metz	
December 24	One-Combined Morning Worship (Sanctuary)	10:00 a.m.
	No Sunday School or Potluck Meal	
	Christmas Eve Worship w/Communion Lessons and Carols	4:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Liturgical Worship w/Communion	11:00 p.m.
	Both services will have Holy Communion and candle lighting	
December 31	One-Combined Worship (Sanctuary)	10:00 a.m.
	No Sunday School or Potluck meal	
January 3	T.O.P.S. Meeting (Pairs and Spares Room)	10:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	
January 7	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	8:45 a.m.
	Early Choir Practice (After Worship)	
	Youth Sunday School Class (Youth Room)	10:00 a.m.
	Adult Sunday School Class (Fellowship Hall)	10:00 a.m.
	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	11:00 a.m.
January 9	Women's Circle Meeting Katie's Ladies(Office Conference Room)	10:00 a.m.
	Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	6:00 p.m.
January 10	T.O.P.S. Meeting (Pairs and Spares Room)	10:00 a.m.
	Family Fun Night (Fellowship Hall)	6:00 p.m.
	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.
January 14	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	8:45 a.m.
	Early Choir Practice (After Worship)	
	Youth Sunday School Class (Youth Room)	10:00 a.m.
	Adult Sunday School Class (Fellowship Hall)	10:00 a.m.
	Worship Service (Sanctuary)	11:00 a.m.
	Worship and Music Meeting (after the Late Service)	
January 15	Church Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
January 17	T.O.P.S. Meeting (Pairs and Spares Room)	10:00 a.m.
	Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

*Installation of New Council Members

*The Peace Is Shared

MEAL

The Offering is Received

Offertory Anthems

8:45 a.m.

“There’s a Voice In The Wilderness Crying”

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a
call from the ways untrod; Prepare in the desert a
highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the
lofty hill brought low; make straight all the crooked
places where God, our God, may go!

O Jerusalem, herald good tidings, ascend
to the heights and sing! Proclaim to the desolate
people the coming of their king.
Like flow’rs of the field we perish, like
grass our works decay; the pow’r and the pomp of
nations shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our Savior is faithful, the
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the
nations and soon will right the wrong.
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd, the
lambs so gently hold; in pastures of peace now
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

11:00 a.m.

“Prepare The Way Of The Lord”

- Mozart/Hopson

Prepare the way of the Lord, make a highway, make a highway,
make a highway for God to come.
See the valleys lifted high, all the mountains and hills made low.
See uneven ground made level, all the rough places made plain.
See uneven ground made level, all the rough places made plain.
Prepare a highway for the Lord.

Hear the voice of him who cries, make a highway in the desert, make a highway for the Lord.
All the earth shall see it together. Hear, for God has spoken it.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make a highway, make a highway,
make a highway for God to come.
See the valleys lifted high, all the rough places made plain.
See the valleys lifted high, all the mountains and hills made low.
Prepare the way, the Savior comes.

*The Offertory Hymn **“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”**
*The Prayer (The congregation responds with AMEN.)

Hymn #181

*The Great Thanksgiving (sung responsively)

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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 our thanks and praise.

*Preface of the Day

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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise (Here the minister continues with the preface for the day,
concluding) ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus (sung by all)

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Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

* The Eucharistic Prayer

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ADVENT SCHEDULE

Advent Meals – 6:00 p.m.

December 20 The Lutheran Church Youth – host
There will be a free will offering received.

Advent Worship Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20 Sermon Message: “Reunions”

All Advent donations will go to The Salvation Army of Anderson.

Mark your calendars:

Chili and Caroling – December 17

Congregational Christmas Caroling and Chili 5:00 p.m.

Choir Gathering – December 22 at the Helgeson home 6:30 p.m.
with heavy hors d’oeuvres and desserts.

Congregational Caroling and Chili Event



This afternoon, you are invited to participate in a good ol’ Christmas Caroling event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall to visit local members as well as those in surrounding assisted living/nursing home facilities. **We are aiming to depart at 5:00 p.m. and ask everyone to arrive a few minutes before this time** to arrange carpooling details and to review the planned stops for the evening. Afterwards, we will return to Fellowship Hall for some delicious homemade chili and sandwiches, provided by members of Holy Trinity. This is an excellent opportunity to wear that Christmas sweater you have been hiding in your closet (or that Santa hat or reindeer antlers). If you still have any questions, please contact Pastor Fischer.

LONG TERM PRAYERS

Henri Holmes Adair Baker
Judith Womer
Gabrielle Godfrey
Richard Benedict
Carolyn Culbreath
Abby Barrett & Family
Chris Goodwin
Buddy & Lesley Taylor
Jean Vinson
Kathy Weeks
Linda Rikard
Judy Jarrett
Ross King
Willy E. Johnson
Donna Welborn
Michael Morrison
Pruitt Martin
Kenneth
Joan Stinson
Susan Socha
Robert Scribner
Danny Rouse
Sandy Matlack Forrest
Laura Wagner
Sue Walthall
David Lane
Nina & Larry Sherman

SPONSORS

The Stokes Family
Lauren Guthre
Brenda McGowan
Dave & Sue Rasche
The Stokes Family
Jay & Suzie Bannister
The Fischer Family
Marisa Adrian
Bob Vinson
Tom Weeks
Bob & Susan Straup
The Fischer Family
Cherie Brown
The Stokes Family
The Stokes Family
Jill Helgeson
Bob Vinson
Jay & Suzie Bannister
Brenda McGowan
Dan & Johnnie Hunnicutt
Jan House
Brenda McGowan
Jill Helgeson
Paul Wagner
Bob & Susan Straup
Dan & Johnnie Hunnicutt
Jill Helgeson

*The Lord's Prayer

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**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.**

*The Communion Hymn (sung by all)

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**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

(we sit)

The Communion (Continuous method-Please follow the directions of the ushers.)
Invited to commune at this altar are all baptized believers. Children not yet receiving Holy Communion are invited to come with their families to receive a blessing. On the way up, you are to pick up a cup and bring it to the altar. Prefilled cups in the center of the tray contain grape juice; otherwise wine will be dispensed at the altar into empty cups. Gluten free wafers are available as needed. Please notify the Pastor. To have the elements brought to you for communion, please notify an Usher. It would be helpful if you would sit on the front pew or on the aisle. As you go to the altar for communion, you are invited to dip your fingers into the water of the Baptismal Font and make a sign of the cross on your forehead in remembrance of your baptism.

*The Communion Blessing

Pastor Fischer

*Post Communion Hymn **“Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant”**
**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled,
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared
In the sight of ev’ry people: a light to reveal you to the
Nations and the glory of your people Israel.**

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*Prayer after Communion (The congregation responds with AMEN.)

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A REMINDER THAT DURING ADVENT

- The blue paraments symbolize the hope that comes to the world in the birth of the Christ Child.
- We omit the Hymn of Praise.
- Each week we light an additional candle on the Advent wreath and sing an additional stanza of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”
- The Prayer of the Day begins “Stir up....”
- We use the Nicene Creed.

SENDING

*The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"Blessed Be The God of Israel"

Hymn #250

(Silence is observed for meditation as candles are extinguished.)

The Dismissal

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Postlude

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

-W. Walker

(*) "Indicates congregation to stand"

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Paul and Diane Wagner to the honor and glory of God.

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Sunday, Morning Worship December 24

One-Combined Service

10:00 a.m.

No Sunday School or Potluck Meal

Christmas Eve, December 24

Lessons and Carols w/Communion – 4:00 p.m.

A nursery will be provided.

Liturgical Worship Service w/Communion – 11:00 p.m.

Candle lighting at both services.

Sunday, December 31

One-Combined Worship

10:00 a.m.

No Sunday School or Potluck Meal

PRAYER LIST

12/10 Anita Roehrs

12/10 The Family of Susan McIntyre

12/10 Barbara Donohue

12/10 Heather Bailey

12/3 The Family of Coach Dennis Patterson

12/3 Family/Friends/Teachers of Nate Gabriel

12/3 Ruth Teagle

11/26 Coyann Gray Lee

11/26 Whitney Moody

11/26 Martha Padgett

11/26 The Family of Allan Cole

11/19 Richard Straup

11/19 Ron Naumann

11/12 Deputy Lucas Watts

11/12 Marijane Coggins

11/12 The Family of Ardy Armen

11/12 The Family of Gail Williams

11/12 Ben Emanuel

11/12 Carole Anne Cantey

11/12 Nora McClendon

11/12 Scott Smith

11/12 James Maxwell

11/12 Denise Ludlow

11/5 Richard Polsdorfer

11/5 Ashley Williams

11/5 The Family of Anne Willis Inman

11/5 The Family of Lewis Zeigler

10/29 Karen Cromer

10/29 Suzie Bannister

10/29 The Family of James Adams

10/29 Jean Vinson

10/29 Madison Dunn

10/29 Marisa Adrian

10/22 Ashleigh Drennan Craft

10/15 Barbara Thomas

10/8 Robert Scott

10/8 Debra Smith

10/8 The Family of Judy Warncke

10/1 Henry Adair

SPONSORS

Rev. Stephen Roehrs

Johnnie Hunnicutt

Kati Smith

Robin Sandwick

Jill Helgeson

Anna Caldwell

Jan House

Brenda McGowan

Lee Moody

The Lybrand & Stokes Families

Congregation

Bob & Susan Straup

Kim Hill

Pat Ross

Congregation

Jill Helgeson

Jill Helgeson

Bonnie Emanuel

The Stokes Family

The Stokes Family

Andy & Sharon Christmas

Andy & Sharon Christmas

Pat Ross

Tamara Polsdorfer

Rette Stokes

Jill Helgeson

Dan & Johnnie Hunnicutt

Suzie Bannister

Jay Bannister

Congregation

Bob Vinson

Nancy Scalf

Tom Adrian

Cathey Sale

Congregation

Janice Davenport

Jane Potter

Jan House

Chris & Anna Caldwell